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5 JUNE 1986

Latin America Report

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JPRS-LAM-86-048

5 JUNE 1986

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

CONTENTS

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

ATLU Organ Raps Barbuda Workers' Plight, Lauds ALP
(THE WORKERS VOICE, 22 Mar, 12 Apr 86) 1

Barbuda Situation 1
ALP Accomplishments 2

Hector: U.S. Raid on Libya Reveals Designs in South Africa
(Tim Hector; OUTLET, 18 Apr 86) 6

U.S. Concerned About Bird Corruption, Cabinet Drugs Role
(OUTLET, 18 Apr 86) 10

Hector, ACLM Organ Comment on Caribbean Unity
(OUTLET, 18 Apr 86) 13

U.S. 'Dominance' in Area 13
National Movement Meeting 14

Briefs
New Budget Director 16

ARGENTINA

Dellepiane's Views on CGT Measures, Constitutional Reform
(Raul Dellepiane Interview; LA VOZ DEL INTERIOR, 7 Apr 86) 17

CGT's 26-Point Proposal to Government Released
(CLARIN, 10 Apr 86) 20

Degree of CGT's Political Influence Surveyed
(Roberto Queimalinos; SOMOS, 23 Apr 86) 22

Recent INDEC Unemployment Figures Show Steady Increase
(AMBITO FINANCIERO, 1 Apr 86) 27

COLOMBIA

Liberal Candidate Speaks Out on San Andres, Peace Process
(EL TIEMPO, 8, 11 Apr 86) 30

Barco: Colombian Sovereignty Indisputable, by
Jesus Medina S. 30
Peace Process 'Failed' 33

HONDURAS

Political 'Understanding' With U.S. Outlined
(Rodolfo Pastor F.; TIEMPO, 14 Feb 86) 36

Military Transition Could Face Difficulties
(Editorial; TIEMPO, 14 Feb 86) 38

PDCH Activist Nunez Resigns From Party
(LA TRIBUNA, 17 Feb 86) 40

Rodista Movement Undergoes Transformation
(LA TRIBUNA, 17 Mar 86; TIEMPO, 17 Mar 86) 41

Flores New Coordinator, by Ludovico Sanchez Turcios 41
Suazo Cordova Exits 43

Minister-Designate Rosenthal Predicts Demise of PUN
(Antonio Pineda Green; LA TRIBUNA, 1 Mar 86) 46

ALIAZ Deputies Support Montoya Candidacy
(LA TRIBUNA, 3 Mar 86) 49

COLPROSUMAH Factions Clash Over Leadership
(TIEMPO, various dates; LA TRIBUNA, 18 Feb 86) 52

CODEH Calls for Intervention 52
Tinoco Seeks CGT Membership 52
Negotiations Under Way 53
Government Intervention Criticized, Editorial 54

Paper Says Major Parties Seek To 'Stifle' Small Parties
(LA TRIBUNA, 7 Mar 86) 56

Labor, Business Sector, Government Seek Joint Solutions
(TIEMPO, 13 Feb 86) 57

ANDI Seeks Protective Measures From Azcona
(TIEMPO, 15 Feb 86) 59

ANDEPH Calls for 'Depoliticization' of Government Workers
(TIEMPO, 18 Feb 86) 62

Contraband Trade Affecting Business of Distributing Companies
(LA TRIBUNA, 19 Feb 86) 63

NICARAGUA

Economic Difficulties, Labor Unrest Detailed
(BARRICADA, 19, 20 Apr 86) 64

Ortega: Plan Can Change 64
Workers Take Over Enterprise 66

PERU

Preparations Begin for June Socialist International Congress
(EL NACIONAL, 4 May 86) 71

ST LUCIA

Compton Budget Offers Projects, New Jobs, Tax Changes
(THE VOICE, 26 Mar 86; THE WEEKEND VOICE, 29 Mar 86) 72

Tax Proposals 72
Project Plans 73
Optimism on Budget 74

Compton Criticizes Public Servants Request for Pay Increase
(THE WEEKEND VOICE, 29 Mar 86) 76

Throne Speech Points to Bright Prospects in Economy
(THE VOICE, 26 Mar 86) 78

Bank Report Reviews Economic Indexes for 1985
(THE WEEKEND VOICE, 29 Mar 86) 79

Opposition Continues Criticism of Government Policies
(THE WEEKEND VOICE, 5, 12 Apr 86) 81

SLP on Labor Issues 81
Hecklers at SLP Rally 82

Paper Credits UWP With Betterment of Nation's Economy
(Editorial; THE WEEKEND VOICE, 5 Apr 86) 83

Attorney General Alludes to 'Crooked' Customs Officers
(THE WEEKEND VOICE, 5 Apr 86) 85

Caribbean National Movement Assessed, Hailed
(CRUSADER, 19 Apr 86) 86

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Text of Robinson Speech on NAR Economic, Other Programs
(SUNDAY GUARDIAN, 4 May 86) 88

30,000 Former ONR Members Not Yet Registered With NAR
(DAILY EXPRESS, 5 May 86) 98

NAR's Tewarie Discusses Political, Social Views
(Gail Alexander; SUNDAY GUARDIAN, 11 May 86) 99

OWTU Official Sees Trade Union Movement Under Attack
(DAILY EXPRESS, 2 May 86) 102

/9987

ATLU ORGAN RAPS BARBUDA WORKERS' PLIGHT, LAUDS ALP

Barbuda Situation

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 22 Mar 86 p 1

[Text]

The Management of Coco Point Hotel on Barbuda has again started its blatant disregard for "law and order" by coercing the employees to sign orders against their will, with the intent that they should not be represented by any Union.

The A.T. & L.U. is legally the bargaining Agent for the employees of that hotel and has been experiencing difficulties with Management. Since the workers requested the Union to represent them Management showed its dissatisfaction for their action. Their first attempt was to start getting rid of those workers whom they claim were the mouth-piece for the Union. Also several other events took place which are evident of the latter.

Management and the Union are presently locked in a dispute at the Industrial Court.

Meanwhile Management seems to think that this is not enough. They have embarked upon the usual harassment towards the workers by demanding of them to perform extra duties outside of their job description without pay. Also Service Charge due to the workers are not fairly distributed. A similar event took place two years ago which led to a strike at the said Hotel.

Coco Point Management has been allowed to take advantage of the people of Barbuda for too long now.

Unity is strength, and where there is no unity the workers will suffer. Whenever the workers try to organise in order to fight the injustices being experienced there are those who would try to use their high offices and disorganise them, in order that their friends, Management of Coco Point Hotel, can carry out their vindictive feelings against the workers.

Barbudan workers, like Antiguans, will have to unite as one, stand firm and be militant and success will surely follow.

We are not condemning Foreign Investment nor the Investors, but at the same time we will not condone the behaviour of any Investor who would want to come to our country and violate the laws of our land and be disrespectful to our nationals. Antiguans/Barbudans are worth much more than what they are receiving from most of the foreign investment in our country. We are capable of performing duties not only as labourers, messengers and cleaners but as Supervisors.

This Newspaper was reliably informed that in a certain establishment a foreigner occupies a Supervisory position. She has been causing problems to our nationals and is not in possession of a work permit.

We are therefore calling on those in Authority who deal with Immigration and the issuing of Work Permits, etc. to investigate the matter expeditiously. The matter was reported to the Labour Department.

ALP Accomplishments

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 12 Apr 86 p 1, 6

[Text]

Some people would like to see the demise of the Antigua Labour Party in this twin island country, but they better not hold their breath while waiting for such an unfortunate event to take place.

It is an open secret that the ship is being rocked by the actions of some leading party members, who seem to

think the country belongs to them; others who believe that their main purpose in entering politics is to look out for themselves first and their constituents after, that is if they have time to get around to them. Some rank and file party members are just as guilty. They consider themselves as having been ostracised by some of their leaders and have been acting worst than them. Those in the service of the Government have reduced their production to less than half, have lost respect for both God and man, and, couldn't care less whether the country goes forward or stagnates.

For those persons who have followed the trend of politics throughout history would know that an elected Government with no opposition would naturally turn on itself, creating an opposition from within. the A.L.P. is no exception. But let those people who would like to see the demise of the party understand that the A.L.P. is here to stay, so that they should not comfort themselves by the present rocking of the boat.

The Party is now at the middle of its third term since it returned after those five awful years under the ineffective leadership of the P.L.M. There is no one in this country who would willingly return to such a hell when this country was almost transformed into a ghost-town.

The rejected politicians have again formed themselves into a merger of convenience in order to oppose the people's party - the A.L.P. George Walter who has made history as the Premier who has served the shortest period in these islands, is now attempting to bed down with the best known new face in the merger - Dr. Ivor Heath. Let us hope that at the N.D.P. convention later this month that Big George does not turn up with another 90 union votes like when he hijacked Robert Hall at the first convention of the P.L.M. Poor Robert never recovered from that shock. Watch it Doc!

The A.L.P. is the only Party in this country where ministers, senators, Trade

unionists and the rank and file can criticize each other without dismissal from the Party. In any other party people like the acting Editor of this newspaper would be out on his back-side long ago.

Remember when the P.L.M. passed the Public Order Act, an officer of the A.W.U. just mentioned that he did not agree with the provisions of the Act and he was kicked out immediately. Others were dismissed from their jobs simply for speaking out.

Not so today, civil servants, non-established and Statutory body workers along with Senators and even Ministers, condemn openly any action by the Government with which they do not agree. This makes Antigua and Barbuda one of the best places to live in this hemisphere. Only the A.L.P. could tolerate such. The 'Outlet' could be as critical as it likes but just stick to the truth and not print false statements about persons in the society. The Editor would never be arrested for printing the truth. It is time that he realizes when he is arested for libelling people, the masses offer no sympathy to him whatsoever. It is easier to become a political martyr by going to prison for the truth rather than printing lies and falsehoods about people who live in our community. No wonder that the Doctor and Walter are distancing themselves from the A.C.L.M. and Outlet.

The masses have realized that the A.T.L.U. and the A.L.P. have built this country from a backward colonial slave colony, to the leading island in the English speaking West Indies and are not anxious to let anyone else break down what has taken such sacrifice to build. It is obvious that some of the deadwood and misfits would have to be put ashore before the ship heads for the next general elections, after which the Party and its rudder and compass, the A.T.L.U. would be ready to meet any challenge from any party or merger of parties head on.

/13104
CSO: 3298/437

The A.L.P. always rises to the big occasion, so you prophets of doom and gloom take heed.

Though cowards flinch and Traitors stare we will keep the Red Flag flying Here. It is the only banner under which the masses of this country can survive. The A.L.P. would never be divided, so do not fool yourselves.

HECTOR: U.S. RAID ON LIBYA REVEALS DESIGNS IN SOUTH AFRICA

St Johns OUTLET in English 18 Apr 86 pp 8-9

[Tim Hector column "Fan the Flame": "On Terror, Disinformation and Terrorism"]

[Text]

We hear our bloody neighbours..not confessing
Their cruel deeds, filling their hearers
With Strange invention.

Those lines were written exactly 380 years ago, by Shakespeare in Macbeth. If you listen to the White Western media today you have a perfect example of powers and principalities out to do their cruel deeds of aggression, "filling their hearers/with strange inventions".

Today we are being told that terrorists are every where. Every one who does not toe the American line, and cough up the American view of events is either a communist or terrorist or both

A couple of weeks ago, the United States was in Libyan waters spreading murder, and it said, using military might to make a point. Its point was that it was disputing with Libya whether the Gulf of Sirte was Libyan or international waters. (They, the U.S. say Gulf of Sidra, Libyans call it Sirte, and I think that at least if the Americans call a State Texas no one has the right to call Texas Old Mexico) therefore we must refer to the Gulf as the Gulf of Sirte). Strangely, the U.S. which claims to uphold the rule of law, was not referring this dispute to the World Court, where such disputes are arbitrated, but chose instead to use HARM missiles to frighten Libya into submitting to its will. State terrorism replaced the rule of law. That is crystal clear.

Two weeks later the U.S. is back in Libyan waters seeking no doubt, by limited war, to bomb Libya back into the stone age as the U.S. attempted to do in Vietnam and was defeated. This time the U.S. claims that, in the wake of its Libyan confrontation, a bomb blast in a West Berlin disco killed a United States soldier and a Turkish woman, and some 44 Americans were injured in the process. That same week too a bomb exploded on a TWA airliner over Greece, killing four Americans.

The U.S. claim that Libya was responsible for these "terrorist attacks" and it is going to teach Libya a lesson. Then Reagan changed his tune, and claimed that his State Terrorism in Libya, in the dead of night, was a pre-emptive strike, not againsst **past** terrorism but against **future** terrorism. Since he cannot prove any past terrorism on the part of Libya, he uses a ruse "future" terrorism. It is specious in the extreme.

The U.S. never told the world that an anonymous caller told a news agency that a group calling itself Holger Meins Commando conducted the attack against the discotheque in Berlin. And that the group is West Berlin bred and born with a history of 'terrorist' activity since 1971, none of which was ever related to **any** foreign power.

Worse, the U.S. never told the world, if and how Libya was connected. It simply made the connection. They say so, therefore, it is so. In spite of Libya's repeated **denials**, the U.S. insisted that Libya was involved in the West Berlin disco attack and in the TWA bombing, without providing the slightest **shred of evidence.** And like cowards this awesome power, attacked a sleeping peaceful Libya! This was Pearl Harbour in reverse.

Now let us examine the larger question. The U.S. claims that Libya is a terrorist nation, engaged in terrorism against the U.S.. Therefore we must examine the record. In April 1983 a suicide squad bombed the U.S. embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, killing 63 people, including 17 Americans. This was always considered a direct response of Lebanese resisting American involvement and military occupation of Lebanon.

Then in October 1983 there was the well-known incident again in Lebanon, when Lebanese Moslems, compelled the U.S. **to withdraw** its forces from Lebanon, when a truck bomb attack killed 241 U.S. Marines at the headquarters of U.S. Force in Lebanon. In a manner of speaking, well suited to the Middle East, a David, using a sling shot had felled a giant.

Then in December 1983 bombs at United States and French embassies in Kuwait killed six and wounded more than 80. Libya, then or now, was not said to be involved.

Then in September 1984, two Americans and a dozen Lebanese killed by Lebanese suicide squad which car bomb wrecked United States Embassy annexed in Beirut.

In June 1985 Shi'itie Moslems hijack TWA airliner in Mediterranean. Again later in June, a suitcase bomb explodes at Frankfurt airport in West Germany killing three. Arab group in Beirut claim responsibility.

Next month, July 1985, one killed, 26 injured as bombs hit TWA and British Airways offices in Madrid. In Copenhagen, several injured by blasts at United States Northwest Orient Airlines office and a Jewish synagogue.

August 1985. Car bomb kills two and injures 20 at United States base in Frankfurt. Please note too, how often there are attacks in Frankfurt West Germany. Libya was never said to be involved in any way. **By the way elements of the Red Army faction and the Red Brigade live in Antigua,** some of whom were involved in the murder of former Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro, and are known to live here **by the Antigua Government** and the U.S. Government. They are here to wreck Antigua if ACLM comes to power, **and have said so.**

Then comes October 1985 New York man, a cripple, Leon Klinghoffer is killed and thrown from Italian Liner, Achille Lauro. The vessel was hijacked by Palestinians during a cruise in the Meditteranean. Few days later Israeli warplanes pounded Tunisia and the Palestine Liberation Organisation headquarters.

November 1985 - Sixty killed as Egyptian troops stormed Egyptair plane in Malta. One American died.

December 1985. Arab suicide squads, reportedly led by Abu Nidal who is based in Syria hit check-in-desks at

Rome and Vienna airports. Death toll 18.

April 1986. Bomb blast in West Berlin disco kills U.S. soldier and Turkish woman.

I have deliberately and painstakingly recalled every known incident of so-called terrorism. In every instance Libya could not be connected. It is well known, that every Arab country, Libya foremost, supports the Palestinian struggle, which like the struggle against apartheid began in 1948. The homeless and stateless Palestinians, a whole nation turned into refugees, have the sympathy of progressive and humane people everywhere. Their guerrilla methods, were the very methods used by Israel and **sanctioned by the U.S., Britain, France** etc. Today, what the West sanctioned with Israel since 1948, it now abhors with hypocritical horror when employed by the Palestinians.

But in the world we live, we are not only supping deep on horrors, we have **State Terrorism** planned, financed, directed and executed by the most powerful countries of the world, against small defenceless States. There is the **U.S.** and **Israel Britain** and **South Africa** who are prepared to be involved in State terrorism, all prepared to act against Third World peoples.

Let us make no mistake about it. The recent attack on Libya by the U.S. had nothing to do with Libyan terrorism. Nothing whatsoever.

The Reagan terrorist attack on Libya, at dead of night in tandem with Britain, is aimed at the Libyan economy. The intention first is to destroy a Third World African country which has the means, the financial means to be independent of both the USSR and the USA. Hold fast to that and every thing else becomes clear.

I want to support that point. Patrick Seale, an acknowledged expert of Arab affairs argued that "a wise super-power doesn't think in terms of inflicting punishment on tiny States of 2 to 3 million people". Continuing "Hitting Gaddafi will only persuade more Arab States to support the Libyans".

Another commentator, R.W. Apple, makes it clear that if any State should be attacked for terrorism it should be Syria. But says Apple, "Syria is **off limits** to an American military attack, they say, because such a strike might well **bring** the Soviet Union into the conflict on Syria's side". Unlike Syria, Libya has no Friendship Treaty with the Soviet Union, so that Libya becomes fair game for barbarous acts of State terrorism.

At the same time, the Soviet Union and the U.S. have demonstrated that if countries, are effective and can sustain their own independence, even then they must be compelled to seek the protection of one or the other super-power. Libya is boldly resisting that course. May they succeed.

That point has to be grasped in all its fullness. It has particularly meaning for **us and South Africa.** For if South Africa were freed under Black Rule, it has the means to be truly **independent.** It follows then, that whites and traitorous blacks too, in South Africa will be **instructed, directed and financed** as **contras** to destroy the South African economy, **before** Black power prevails. Or, if Black socialists prevail, as they will, in South Africa, various pretexts, like "**sponsoring terrorism**", or "**exporting revolution**" will be used to attack Black ruled South Africa to reduce it to economic shambles.

In fact, Reagan providing the notorious vagabond Savimbi in Angola with missiles is the first clear and unarguable sign

that the U.S. intention is to reduce Southern African to economic impotence, and thus imperil real independence for African peoples either in North Africa - Libya or in Southern Africa. That is what is at stake in the crisis in Libya.

I want to be more emphatic. In Angola, it is a matter of policy for the Angolan Government to protect **U.S. economic interests,** in particular, the oil establishments owned by U.S. Company Gulf Oil. Both Cuban and Angolan troops protect these U.S. interests. And yet the U.S. Government finds it **necessary** to **sponsor terrorist** activity against the very Angolan Government that protects U.S. interests!

It becomes transparently clear, that it is a truly independent Southern Africa, which is under attack, and the prime U.S. interest in the world, is to use State terror itself, or via Israel and South Africa against Third World Nations. Britain in Libya on Monday directly associated itself with this State terrorism against Libya and the Third World.

Libya, following Grenada and Nicaragua, have been the victims of this State terrorist policy. Libya moreso. Libya is African. I am African. This unprovoked attack on Libya is going to determine much about the world in which we live. For what is under attack, is not Libyan terrorism, as the evidence indisputably shows, but the genuine independence of **any** Third World Country.

Saudi Arabia can have its wealth provided it keeps its old feudal structure, frittering away its oil wealth among 2,000 Princes and their entourage. Zaire, can waste its substance in corruption, a la Marcos and Duvalier, and will have U.S. support in so doing.

Libya having abolished its feudal monarchy and its feudal structure in 1969; Libya having distributed its wealth among the masses, is an enemy, to those who would have the masses of the world hungry, houseless, poor and powerless.

But, it is very likely, that the masses of the world, in North and Southern Africa, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Latin America, will not accept the place that the State Terrorists have assigned them. At any rate, it is that struggle in which the world is now engaged.

/13104
CSO: 3298/437

U.S. CONCERNED ABOUT BIRD CORRUPTION, CABINET DRUGS ROLE

St Johns OUTLET in English 18 Apr 86 pp 1, 2

[Text]

Reports, from usually reliable sources, state that a U.S. high level team will visit Antigua shortly to discuss with the Bird Regime, known instances of corruption in which the Bird administration have been involved.

The sudden concern by the U.S. about corruption in the Bird Regime has created panic in the government who are hastily trying to put a delegation together to meet the U.S. team and to forestall and deflect the U.S. team with arguments about the failure and 'paucity' of U.S. Aid.

News of the impending U.S. survey of corruption leaked when Deputy Prime Minister, invited Minister of Port, Molwyn Joseph, to be part of the Government delegation to meet the American team.

The Reports state that Minister of Port Molwyn Joseph was surprised to be invited as a member of the Antigua delegation, since he was unaware of what precisely would be the subject of the meeting. It appeared that he was being asked to pick other peoples cashews out of the fire.

Other ministers contacted by Outlet refused to comment on the reports, but would not confirm or deny the possibility of such a U.S. team coming here to end the endless slide of the Bird regime into corruption.

The U.S. Team is reported to be concerned about a possible collapse of the Bird regime in the manner of Marcos in the Phillipines and Duvalier in Haiti.

Indeed, events in Antigua bear a striking resemblance to developments in the Phillipines prior to the collapse and departure of Marcos from the Phillipines. Before Marcos collapsed he had directed his hostility against then opposition leader Benigno Aquino, who, after numerous prosecutions was forced into exile in the United States. Similarly, ACLM political leader, Leonard Tim Hector is the most prosecuted political figure in the Caribbean. After Aquino decided to return to the Phillipines he was killed by the Marcos Regime.

As the political climate drifted along in the Phillipines, and began to deteriorate, the U.S. sent a team under Senator Lugar, to urge Marcos to mend his ways, and bring about reforms. Marcos sidetracked the U.S. team, with an election, which eventually proved to be his undoing.

The similarity with Antigua is striking. Reports are all over the Caribbean and wider afield about corruption in Antigua, particularly concerning a propos-

ed Desalting Plant. These widespread reports in official Caribbean and U.S. circles perhaps disturbed the U.S. and led the U.S. to the conclusion that the Bird regime could go the way of the Marcos regime.

The U.S. is said also, to be disturbed by the fact that the new opposition which it tried to cultivate in Antigua had failed to make any impact, and has merged again, after a few months, with the party from which most of its members originally split, That party was roundly defeated and dismissed as "nonentities" in the 1984 General Elections.

People in the know claim that the U.S. sees ACLM as the only credible and likely alternative to the Bird regime, and is seeking through the U.S. team to recommend a package of reforms which would check corruption in the Bird regime, and preclude ACLM coming to power on the collapse of the Bird government.

P.M Bird, has virtually withdrawn from the leadership of the Government and nation, as he has become more and more incapable of ending the feuds within his Cabinet. He attended the Test Match in Antigua with his young 4 year old daughter on his knee most of the time as he watched the Fifth and final Test Match. Political observers claim that PM V.C. Bird's regular, rather than official, attendance at the Test Match was an open rebuke to his boycotting Deputy Lester Bird.

At the same time another feud **flared** in Cabinet which is said to have shattered PM Bird, and provoked the feeling that the ship is certainly sinking.

It happened when, Minister of Edcation Reuben Harris, was upbraiding Minister in the Ministry of Economic Development, Hugh Marshall, for issuing a statement deploring the police arrest of anti-apartheid youths who had stuck up posters on the Recreation Grounds urging people to "Join the anti-apartheid struggle". Harris claimed that the Marshall statement "undermined confidence in the Police".

Marsball is said to have replied that the Police "should have looked the other way". Marshall is said to have continued with a statement which shocked the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Marshall is said to have told the Cabinet, that just as the Police look the other way, **and allow certain big drug pushers to get away, the police** could have looked the other way and not arrest the young anti-apartheid activists.

The statement by Marshall created alarm in Cabinet for the statement clearly implied that there were big drug-pushers, known to Cabinet, who had official or Police protection, or drug pushers at or from which the Police "lock the other way".

The ship is surely sinking when in the very Cabinet accusation of condonation of big drug-pushers is made confidently, without any refutation being offered.

U.S. sources have not confirmed whether or not the U.S. team will be urging on the Bird regime a package of reforms to mend its peculiar ways in matters of finance and members of the Bird regime amassing personal fortunes. However, the Drug question has for sometime now ennervated and angered U.S. officialdom.

U.S. official sources, would only say that when Deputy Prime Minister, Lester Bird, was in Washington recently, a suggestion was put that there should be an "economic dialogue" between Washington officials and the U.S. Government. U.S. sources were prepared to confirm though, that the up-coming

meeting between the U.S. and the Bird regime is part of that "economic dialogue" which will take place shortly.

Apart from all that, there was another odd incident at Cabinet. Minister of Education and Sports, Reuben Harris, was distributing to his Cabinet colleagues invitations for an official cocktail party which was held on Wednesday last for the England and West Indies Test teams at the end of the England tour.

According to the report from Cabinet, Harris 'ostentatiously' distributed the invitations to each Cabinet Minister, with all except Lester Bird receiving an invitation to the cricket Cocktail party. Another Cabinet Minister asked, after the invitations had been distributed, if there was not one for the Deputy. Harris is said to have replied that he "would not insult the Deputy Prime Minister by giving him an invitation". Lester Bird normally quick to laugh, sat grim faced throughout, what was characterised as the "strange distribution of invitations to a mere cocktail party at a Cabinet meeting". Cabinet sources say that this was another nail in Harris' political coffin, and that **"the Dynasty will strike back"**. When and how the Dynasty will strike back is not known.

/13104
CSO: 3298/437

However, they are known to feel that Harris move was a calculated snub, in that the Deputy Prime Minister should have received an invitation by virtue of his office. Then, they say, it was up to the Deputy to attend or boycott as he saw fit.

The fact that there are reports that the U.S. feels that the Bird regime is on a corrupt slide, and is intervening to check that slide; the fact that accusations of drug-pushing which is officially condoned, and these unrefuted accusations were made at Cabinet, without any rebuttal; the fact that the feud between the Lester Bird faction and the Harris mini-faction is still at its height; the fact that for the first time PM V.C. Bird cannot stamp his authority on the Cabinet and ruling party, is a sure sign that the ALP One-Party ship is sinking from the weight of its own corruption, its own condonation of drug-pushing, its own power-struggle, its own mal-administration. Some of the second mates and crew, are wondering aloud if they "should abandon ship".

Captain, the ship is surely sinking.

HECTOR, ACLM ORGAN COMMENT ON CARIBBEAN UNITY

U.S. 'Dominance' in Area

St Johns OUTLET in English 18 Apr 86 p 5

[Article from 7 March 1986 CARIBBEAN TIMES: "U.S. Dominance No Answer to Caribbean Crisis Says Antiguan Opposition Leader"]

[Text]

RECENTLY, Mr Tim Hector, leader of the Afro-Caribbean Liberation Movement (ACLM) and editor of Antigua weekly newspaper, *Outlet*, dropped in on *Caribbean Times* to clarify reports on charges brought against him; and to give an overview of recent developments in Antigua and the Caribbean.

In July of 1985 *Caribbean Times* reported that Mr Hector had been sentenced to six months for libel by a Magistrates' Court in Antigua. But besides the fact that Magistrates' Courts do not try Libel cases, Mr Hector explained that he was charged under the Public Order Amendment Act of 1976 for 'making a false statement likely to underarmine confidence in a public official in the conduct of public affairs'.

The statement in question, which was made in *Outlet*, claimed that the Antiguan government did not show up at a Reagan Summit in North Carolina because one of its ministers was stopped at Miami Airport and questioned about large sums of money he was carrying. It is the latter part of the statement that attracted the charge.

An appeal was made aganist the sentence and a decision was expected from the Appeal *Court* on Feb 24th.

Campaign

MR HECTOR, who was in London to deliver two lectures on CLR James, sees his prosecution as part of an ongoing campaign to silence *Outlet*, the only Antiguan newspaper that is non-government owned. *Outlet* had to close down in 1978 after reporting that arms were going to South Africa from Antigua. Printing facilities were withdrawn by their printing firm, which was owned by government officials. The arms report was subsequent's proven to be accurate. The newspaper now has its own printing press.

Speaking on US dominance in Antigua, Mr Hector said that of the 32 luxury hotels in the island, 30 were US owned. Becuase of the overdependence on tourism (72% GNP) agricultural production has drastically declined, a fact documented by World Bank reports. The country has a food import bill of US $40, larger than the national revenue; and most of the food is supplied by rich farmers and multinational corporations in the US.

US economic dominance of Antigua is also matched in the military sphere. The USA has two military bases in Antigua and has recently established a regional training camp for US/Caribbean forces needed for future intervention in the English-speaking Caribbean, or perhaps Nicaragua, suggested Mr. Hector.

On the political level, the Republician Party of the US has organisgd all the ruling parties in the English-speaking Caribbean into what they have termed, the Caribbean Democratic . Union (CDU), with Reagan's party included in the alliance. Mr Hector says that this move will now institutionalise the Republician Party as a permanent factor in the political process in the Caribbean.

Barbados and Guyana have not joined the CDU but Mr. Hector expects them to follow their Caribbean neighbours. He believes that the PNC of Guyana would be given secret membership in order to preserve Hoyte's so called progressive image.

Dynasty

RETURNING to Antigua Mr. Hector said the country was ruled by a dynasty of father and son that has been in power for over thirty years, longer than the Duvaliers'. He said that the US is concerned that its English-speaking dynasty and military headquarters might collapse.

In response to questions on the way out of the crisis he described for Antigua, he said that to any observer the country does not have the preconditions for socialism. However, ACLM is firmly of the view that tourism has to be brought under local, national control. Tourism can be used for accumulating development capital for industrialisation, by altering the pattern whereby profits are repatriated to the US.

The island states of the Caribbean are not viable economic units, Mr Hector argued, and therefore their future is tied up with the question of regional unity. "The only possible basis for the Caribbean to survive, from Bahamas to Surinam, is as a regional state of forty million people, embracing all the language groups in the Caribbean archipelago".

The breakdown of the bauxite economy in Jamaica and the oil economy in Trinidad and Curacao, the sugar economy of Barbados, the bananas/nutmeg of Grenada, or the fourist industry of Antigua, continued Mr Hector, indicate that the crisis is total, and the solution, equally, has to be total: "a United Caribbean".

Mr Hector concluded that "not all Reagan's Kingsmen nor all his kingshorses can put the individual humpty dumpty nation states of the Caribbean together again as individual economies". That will only come about when people in each territory seek to overcome the economic and political mess in which they find themselves. "The movement for a Caribbean nation must become a movement of the Caribbean people themselves."

National Movement Meeting

St Johns OUTLET in English 18 Apr 86 pp 1, 2

[Text]

A movement, known as the Caribbean National Movement, in a Press Conference in Barbados confidently predicted, that the Caribbean, including all 27 island and coastal states in the region will be united in a Zone of peace by and before the end of the century.

Chairman of the Press Conference, was Antigua's Tim Hector, who made the official statement on behalf of the Caribbean National Movement, while Dominica's Rosie Douglas, St. Lucia's George Odlum and Hervin Chung of Jamaica answered questions for

more than an hour put by the Barbados press.

Tim Hector in his opening statement told the Barbados Press that with a view to uniting the Caribbean, the CNM, had organised all the progressive organisations in the Dutch, English, French and Spanish Caribbean "so that there would be a mass movement throughout the Caribbean" seeking to unite the peoples of the region, as a Regional State, of 30 million people which Hector said was the only basis on which a viable Caribbean economy could be based.

Mr Hector also announced that there would be a Caribbean Nation Popular Congress, on the theme "Forward to a Caribbean Nation" which the CNM would organise in late June or early July. The conference would be held in the Caribbean, and several Caribbean governments have already been approached to allow the Caribbean Congress to be held in their territory. Mr Hector also announced that a prominent member of the ANC, believed to be Mrs Winnie Mandela, will deliver a feature address. Among the subjects to be discussed at the First Caribbean Nation Popular Congress, is the **Economics of Caribbean Nationhood** at which several top economists in the region will make presentations.

Also included in the agenda, of the First Caribbean Congress are panels on **Religion and Caribbean Nationhood** involving Church Representatives, The Liberation of women and Caribbean Nationhood, Workers & Trade Unions in One Caribbean.

Answering questions from the press, Mr Rosie Douglas pointed out that the economic crisis which has gripped the Caribbean leading to various IMF packages which have pauperised several territories in the region, can only be resolved by a united Caribbean creating a new basis of meaningful industrialisation, and a realistic market for a Caribbean Agricultural programme, organised and directed by Caribbean workers and farmers.

Mr Odlum, told the Press Conference, that this initiative for Caribbean unity is distinctly and noticeably different from the ill-fated and short lived West Indies Federation of 1958-62, in that it is not a union of political heads, or an administrative arrangement, but begins with the Mass of the people central not only as observers but "determining the perspectives and practices on which the Caribbean people can be united in One Caribbean".

Mr Rosie Douglas also pointed out that at the Congress some 50 people would attend from each territory representing workers, farmers, women and intellectuals, and that the Congress would be funded by Caribbean Trade Unions, Canadian Trade Unions, member organisations as well as donor organisations in the U.S. and other countries. Caribbean immigrant groups in Canada, U.S.A., England, France and the Netherlands will be represented at the First Caribbean Nation Popular Congress.

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CSO: 3298/437

BRIEFS

NEW BUDGET DIRECTOR--Mr. Alphonso Derrick, presently a lecturer at the Antigua State College, has been appointed to take up the post budget director in the Ministry of Finance. Mr. Derrick, who holds masters degrees from the University of Leeds, University of Mississippi and University of London, takes up a position left vacant at the death of Mr. Alphonso Guishard. The former budget director died some two years ago. Mr. Derrick's job will make him responsible for closely monitoring government's revenue and expenditure, prepare estimates, enforce budgetary controls and advise government on fiscal measures. [Text] [St Johns NATION's VOICE in English 11 Apr 86 p 7] /13104

CSO: 3298/437

DELLEPIANE'S VIEWS ON CGT MEASURES, CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Cordoba LA VOZ DEL INTERIOR in Spanish 7 Apr 86 p 9

[Interview with Raul Dellepiane, assistant secretary and attorney of the Social Democratic Party (PSD) and member of the Council for the Consolidation of Democracy; date and place not given]

[Text] "There are political strikes that can end up in a way that the workers do not want."

These are the words of Raul Dellepiane, who in a talk with LA VOZ DEL INTERIOR also discussed the constitutional reform, leftwing forces and the CGT strong-arm measures. The following is a summary of the interview.

[Question] What prospects do you see for the definitive consolidation of the Socialist Unity alliance, in view of the differing political stands that the PSD and the PSP [Popular Socialist Party] have taken and inasmuch as the PSP seems to be closer to the position of the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] and even took an active part in the latest nationwide work stoppage?

[Answer] Socialist Unity is a development of far-reaching importance, in that it is not just an electoral coalition and because we have been working together on almost every aspect of the country's various problems. For example, next month we are going to hold a few health care seminars in Icho Cruz, and I can tell you that we are in almost total agreement on how the government ought to deal with the health care issue. Also, to the extent that we look into specific problems, we show greater ideological consistency. As far as the strike proposal was concerned, one's presence on a speaker's platform is often a social matter, not a question of principles. We supported the objectives of the strike, but we also cautioned that when strikes become political, they can end up in a way that the workers themselves do not want.

All in all, I have no doubt that Socialist Unity is heading down the best possible paths and that its members are showing a loyal determination to follow procedures, to play cleanly in our relations, which inspires me to assert that we will successfully consolidate a single Socialist Party in Argentina. I don't know whether this will happen in the near or intermediate term, but it will certainly happen.

[Question] Since you belong to the Council for the Consolidation of Democracy, what is the council's position on the possibility of reforming the National Constitution and what is the PSD's stand on this issue?

[Answer] The council has decided to hear the views of all the country's social, political, economic and cultural sectors, in other words, not just to conduct a technical assessment, but also to sound out the views of the entire country on the need for reform. The council, of course, has not yet formed an opinion on the matter. As far as the party's position is concerned, I must say in the first place that a reform must not have a secondary purpose; a constitutional reform cannot be designed to overcome the political problems of a given party or segment of society.

If we were to subordinate the objective of the reform, we would be harming the country again and fueling discord in Argentina. The OSD congress has come out in favor of reforming the constitution, mainly in functional matters. Specifically, we see a need to decentralize government. We feel that power is overconcentrated in the president's hands, that has does not have enough time for the fundamentals.

We thus advocate a decentralization of power, returning to the Legislature powers that it has lost in practice and assigning it new functions.

The Plebiscite

[Question] What do you think of national UCR [Radical Civic Union] Congressman Cesar Jaroslavsky's proposal to take advantage of the 1987 legislative and gubernatorial elections to hold a plebiscite on the issue of a constitutional reform?

[Answer] I personally disagree with Congressman Jaroslavsky on a plebiscite at that time. I don't think that such an important issue, one of the few that can strengthen national unity, should be put to a referendum on such short notice and without a prior debate on the why and wherefore of a reform. Unless we spell things out clearly, the referendum will be a capricious way of securing a mandate from the people, but it will not be a genuine expression of the thinking of the majority of the Argentine people.

[Question] How do you view the realignment of leftwing forces in the country and where would you place democratic socialism along the spectrum?

[Answer] We Argentines are very fond of diagrams; we like to have everything diagrammed out and spelled out in synoptic charts. Politics is much more complicated. At times, however, all a certain party need do is proclaim four or five seemingly revolutionary principles that actually represent conventional or threadbare truths, to be called preponderant on the Left or the Right. Now then, true political philosophies are becoming more transparent. When we speak of the democratic Left, we are referring to the Left that accepts political pluralism. So, in this analysis I am leaving out all of the leftists who want a single party, a party as a movement, a populist party or whatever you may choose to call it. Within the spectrum of parties

that really espouse an ideology, I would say that the Socialist Party represents the country's democratic Left.

[Question] Getting back to the Council for the Consolidation of Democracy and your experience in it, do you feel that the council can exert real influence on what the government does?

[Answer] This is the first time that the country, through such an organization, has considered a structural change in the government and in Argentine society, and in this sense it is a move forward.

[Question] Finally, what is your opinion of the 36-hour work stoppage that the CGT has announced for this month? Do you think that a work stoppage is a valid way of pressing for social grievances in a crisis-ridden country?

[Answer] General strikes should be the last resort in a long process of grievance struggles. Unless it has been preceded by true struggle, unless all political channels at all levels have been exhausted, a general strike becomes an instrument of politics, not necessarily of the workers' interests. We are therefore cautioning, and not without concern, that such persistence, which is also a response to some degree of reluctance on the government's part to broach social issues, could lead us to an undesired end.

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CSO: 3348/532

CGT'S 26-POINT PROPOSAL TO GOVERNMENT RELEASED

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 10 Apr 86 p 3

[Text] The following is a summary of the 26 points that the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] proposed last year to the government to revamp and reactivate the various sectors of the national economy:

1) Declare a moratorium on servicing the so-called foreign debt.

2) Ask Congress to look into the nature and legitimacy of the so-called foreign debt and the commitments and repayment periods to be negotiated once the current national emergency is over.

3) Contract no further obligations to service the so-called foreign debt nor allow usurers to increase it.

4) Make the financial system serve the country.

5) Nationalize bank deposits again.

6) Push for tax reform aimed at expanding the production of goods and services.

7) Mobilize the country's considerable idle capacity.

8) Immediately undertake plans to build housing that all segments of society can afford.

9) Provide direct and indirect incentives for exports.

10) Promote import substitution

11) Regain parity in ocean and overland freight for our foreign trade.

12) The outlook for exports must not be limited to a severe selloff of inventories.

13) Attach renewed importance to government investment.

14) Vigorously defend the strengthening and expansion of state-run enterprises.

15) Regain and support the status that Argentina's basic and high-technology industries have achieved.

16) Assure the legitimate, equitable and effective sharing of tax revenues.

17) Support investment.

18) Defend the democratic and republican system in relation to the powers reserved for Congress.

19) Declare the dictatorial provisions null and void as soon as possible.

20) Guarantee the rights of the worker.

21) Preserve the purpose of the social benefit funds.

22) Defend the social benefits system against absorption by the government.

23) Normalize the National Social Benefits Institute.

24) Raise the earnings of workers and pensioners.

25) Comprehensively overhaul the pension system.

26) Promote an urgent reform of the school system, demand a larger budget for the sector and upgrade the role of education workers.

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CSO: 3348/532

DEGREE OF CGT'S POLITICAL INFLUENCE SURVEYED

Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 23 Apr 86 pp 14-16

[Article by Roberto Queimalinos]

[Text] Argentine industry provided 165,000 fewer jobs in 1984 than in 1974; this is equivalent to 11 percent of the 1.5 million workers who were employed a decade ago. Over the same period the number of manufacturing companies dropped from 126,000 to 111,000. One of the reasons for the contraction was the increase in the number of commercial and service companies and in the number of workers they employ: 13 percent more companies and 18.3 percent more workers.

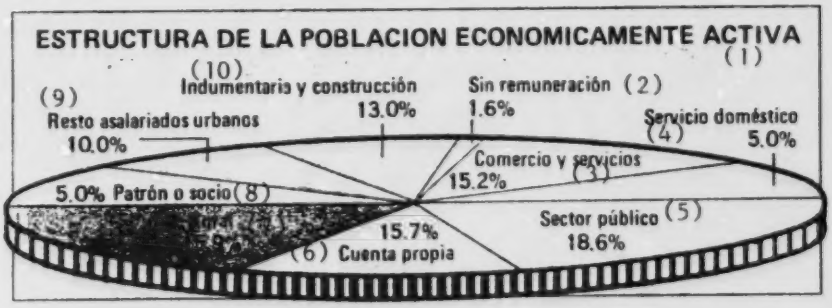
These sweeping changes in the economy have had a direct impact on the power of labor unions. Today, the services unions enjoy a distinct numerical edge over the industrial trade unions, which have seen their ranks diminish in comparison to 15 years ago. These unions are feeling the effects of their shrinkage every day; their social benefit funds, whether large or small, are beset by crisis owing to the decline in earnings from dues resulting directly from smaller memberships. The UOCRA [Construction Workers Union of the Argentine Republic] alone has reportedly lost some 200,000 dues-paying members; the Metalworkers Union (UOM) between 50,000 and 80,000; the Textile Workers Association (AOT) some 70,000, and the Trade Union of Mechanics and Related Automotive Transportation Workers (SMATA) between 40,000 and 60,000. The accuracy of these figures is hard to verify, but they are the ones that leaders cite when they talk of their household tragedies. All of the numbers relating to trade union representation are provisional.

It is true that the size of a union's membership reflects its power, but it is not the only factor in play. Power is reflected to a greater extent in the wage negotiations, in a union's ability to shut down the economy and in its relations with political parties and the government. Thus, union power is two-pronged. It is economic, vis-a-vis business and its affiliates through collective bargaining, and it is political, vis-a-vis the government when it pushes for wage hikes against the will of employers or demands changes outside the union.

Although the decline in the number of workers in industry and their shift to the services sector (as employees or independent contractors) may have

adversely affected the finances of the unions and even diminished their representation, these developments do not seem to have eroded their political strength in bargaining with the government.

There are some doubts, however, about the economic power of the CGT [General Confederation of Workers] or of its components. To what extent does the confederation represent the country's labor force as a whole? "When the CGT and the government negotiate a wage hike, they do not realize that they are actually dealing with just a small percentage of the work force, not the economically active population as a whole," says Juan Luis Bour, the chief economist of the Latin American Economic Research Foundation (FIEL). "In Argentina," Bour argues, "15.9 percent of the population consists of rural workers who are unaffected by any wage negotiations. In the rural market, which dictates the situation of these workers, almost 21 percent of them are independent contractors and owners, who are obviously not affected by wage decisions. In urban areas, 1.6 percent are unpaid, according to the census, and therefore are unaffected by wage policy too, while the 5 percent of domestics make the minimum wage. Aside from this, 18.6 percent are in the public sector, and there are large numbers of wage earners who work in small firms or companies in the interior where the decisive factor is conditions in the market. In other words, when the government negotiates with the secretary general of the CGT, he is representing barely 30 percent of the work force" (See graph 2).



The CGT represents 30 percent of the work force but negotiates for everyone.

Key:

1. Breakdown of the Economically Active Population
2. Unpaid
3. Commerce and services
4. Domestics
5. Public sector
6. Independent contractors
7. Rural
8. Owner or partner
9. Other urban wage earners
10. Garments and construction

Labor leaders, like the authorities, do not ask themselves these questions about the real power of the CGT. To union bosses, "power" is an everyday

thing, something that they exercise whenever they can, that they try to grab when they do not have it or to increase when they do have it.

One of the gauges of union power is the strength of its components, in other words, what trade unions exercise leadership within the CGT by charting its policies and defining its stand vis-a-vis the government. There are two major trends in the tumultuous CGT arena: on the one hand, towards the formation of confederations by sectors, and on the other, towards the normalization of the top echelon after more than a decade of interventions or temporary leaderships such as the present one. The trade union confederations are going to have a long-term impact on the effectiveness of the demands that will make the accumulation of power possible. There are already the confederations of state workers (CGTE) and of education workers (CTERA), and others are taking shape, such as transport, construction, energy, chemical industry, textile and food industry workers.

What the CGT will ultimately look like, however, depends today on what political faction eventually wins out in the normalization: Lorenzo Miguel's 62 Organizations, the Commission of the 25, or the followers of Saul Ubaldini (the Ubaldinistas), the only three that are in a position to vie for supremacy. None of the three can win alone; thus, the entire internal struggle going on right now boils down to the formation of alliances with a view towards the national normalizing congress, whose date is still undecided. The 62, the 25 and the Ubaldini people are about equal in strength, but none of them has enough backing to win it all.

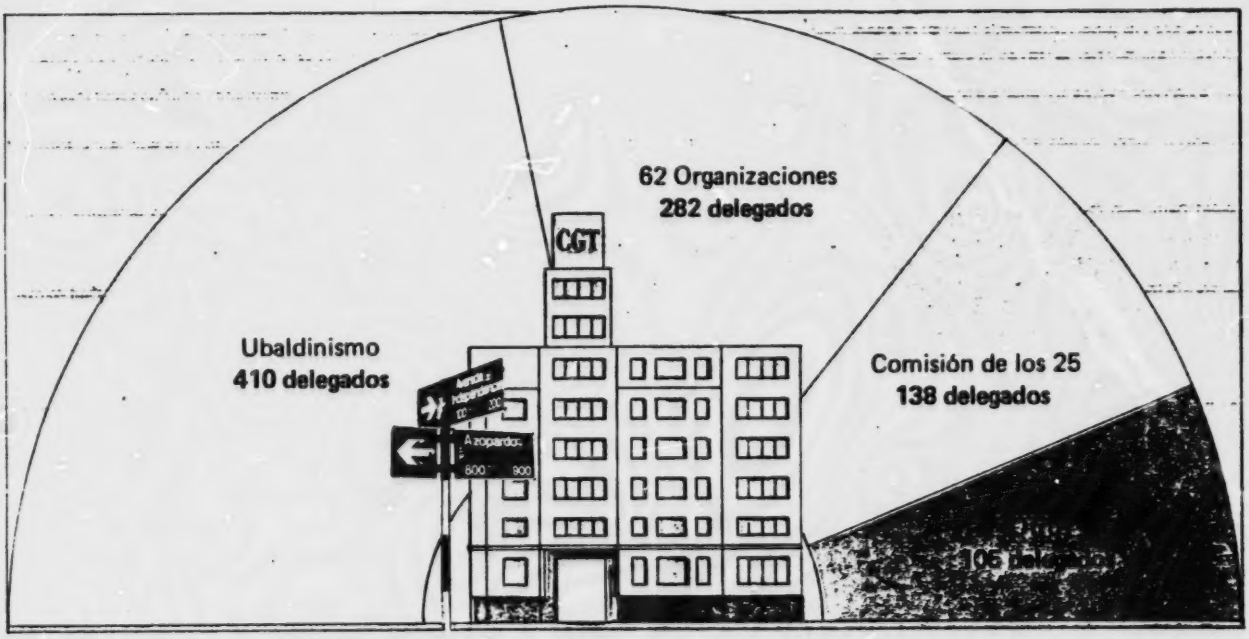
A Time for Alliances

Alliances are being put together and taken apart overnight, and not always in full view of curious onlookers. The 62 Organizations today hopes to bring together all of the factions of the Peronist labor movement under its wing, so that the future CGT leadership is chosen from the political branch of the Peronist Party. The elections of new authorities in the 62 have revealed a crisis of unknown proportions, as the 25 reject Miguel's orthodoxy (they are the renewal faction in the Peronist Party) and the Ubaldinistas demand more positions than they are being given. The 62 is more inclined towards an ongoing dialogue with the administration; the 25 places priority on deciding the Peronist internal struggle, and the Ubaldinistas lean towards confrontation but at the same time say that the 62 has to be revamped.

The three factions have numerous unions as their pillars, precisely the ones that will have the last word when the time comes to vote at the congress (See graphs 1 and 3). The unmet aspirations of the Ubaldini people within the 62 have already led them into talks with the 25 in search of an understanding. They have met at least twice in a Buenos Aires office and even talked about merging in a "parallel" 62 Organizations or about ousting Miguel from the current one. The 25 wants to leave the metalworkers boss on the outside under an agreement with Ubaldini that would embrace the CGT and Peronism, as they have reportedly offered Ubaldini half of the spots on the party's election lists. "The renewal faction is 70 percent of Peronism, but the 25 needs to bring in the Ubaldinistas to become 70 percent of the Peronist labor movement." As they all walk fine lines, with imponderables everywhere, the

followers of Miguel say somewhat sarcastically: "To the CGT it's not the same to have a secretary general who is a malt worker (a subbranch of the brewery workers) as one who is a metal- or textile worker."

But neither faction dares call into question Ubaldini's continued presence as CGT leader. What they want to dictate are the conditions surrounding the charismatic brewery union leader. In the final accounting, when they were united in the orthodox faction, they did not hesitate to use political power to change the course of the last Peronist government.



The Ubaldini faction is the largest in the CGT today, but without alliances it cannot win out when the time comes for normalization.

The Ubaldini Faction	Affiliates	Delegates
Bank Association (Juan J. Zanola)	166,000	56
Construction Workers (Juan Farias)	128,000	43
Civil Service Personnel (Miguel Candore)	150,000	50
Transport Workers (Rene Azar)	65,000	22
Textile Workers (Pedro Goyeneche)	83,000	28
Restaurant Workers	87,000	29
Food Industry Workers	180,000	60
Commerce (Guerino Andrioni)	365,000	122
Total Delegates		410
62 Organizations		
Metalworkers (Lorenzo Miguel)	350,000	117
Sanitation Workers (Ricardo West Ocampo)	173,000	58
Light and Power (Miguel Lescano)	45,000	15
Municipal Workers	140,000	47
Oil Workers (Diego Ibanez)	30,000	10
Meatpackers (Lesio Romero)	60,000	20
Garment Workers	45,000	15
Total Delegates		282
Commission of the 25		
Railway Workers (Jose Pedrazza)	142,000	47
State Workers (Victor De Gennaro)	112,000	37
Mechanics (Raul Amin)	80,000	27
Teamsters (Ricardo Perez)	50,000	17
Telephone Workers (Julio Guillan)	30,000	10
Total Delegates		138
Others		
CTERA	180,000	60
FATRE [Argentine Federation of Rural Workers and Stevedores]	150,000	45
Total Delegates		105

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RECENT INDEC UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES SHOW STEADY INCREASE

Buenos Aires AMBITO FINANCIERO in Spanish 1 Apr 86 p 3

[Text] The unemployment and underemployment figures that came out yesterday have made life more complicated for the government, as the combined number hit a record 13.1 percent of the work force during the April-October 1985 period.

The National Institute of Statistics and Census (INDEC) reported yesterday that 5.9 percent of the work force was unemployed and 7.2 percent was underemployed, making a total of 13.1 percent, the highest level since INDEC began computing the rate.

The survey was conducted in the Federal Capital, districts of Greater Buenos Aires, 19 provincial capitals and 4 other important cities in the interior.

The 7.2 percent underemployment rate is the highest in history and marks the continuation of a steady uptrend over the past 2 years; the rate stood at 5.4 percent in April 1984, 5.9 percent in October 1984, 6.6 percent in April 1985 and now 7.2 percent in October 1985.

Although the unemployment rate is in keeping with the historic trend of lower levels in October than in April, there has been a steady year-to-year increase.

Unemployment stood at 3.9 percent of the work force in October 1983, 4.5 percent in October 1984 and then 5.9 percent in October 1985.

The figure for April 1984 was 4.7 percent and for April 1985, 6.3 percent.

According to the report released yesterday by INDEC, the work force represents 38.3 percent of the entire population.

The Respondents

In the region made up of the Federal Capital and 19 districts of the greater metropolitan area, the unemployment rate was 4.9 percent, the underemployment rate was 6.5 percent, and the work force stood at 39.1 percent.

The areas in which the unemployment rate did not change much from October 1984 were Greater La Plata, Greater Cordoba, Greater Mendoza, Greater Catamarca, Santiago del Estero and La Banda, Greater Tucuman and Tafi Viejo.

The openly unemployed are defined as those individuals who are actively seeking jobs, while those who are doing underpaid or temporary work are regarded as underemployed.

A downtrend in unemployment, though the overall percentage of the work force remained unchanged, was recorded in San Luis-El Corrillo, La Rioja, Salta and Santa Rosa-Toay; these are areas in which tax breaks have been granted for establishing industries.

In contrast, the unemployment rate was up sharply in Parana, Santa Fe-Santo Tome, Greater Rosario, Greater San Juan, Greater San Salvador de Jujuy, Curuzu Cuatia, Formosa, Posadas and Neuquen.

In the Federal Capital and the districts of the greater metropolitan area, the jobless rate from October to October rose from 3.5 to 4.9 percent of the work force, while underemployment increased from 4.7 to 6.5 percent.

The unemployment rate in the Greater Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area is the highest in history, topping the 6.4 percent posted in April 1982, while the 4.9 rate in October is surpassed only by 1981's 5 percent.

The jobless rate hit 7.6 percent and underemployment reached 9.6 percent for Greater Rosario, Greater Cordoba, Greater Mendoza and Greater Tucuman; the first figure represents an all-time record, while the second is topped only by the 10.1 percent in October 1981.

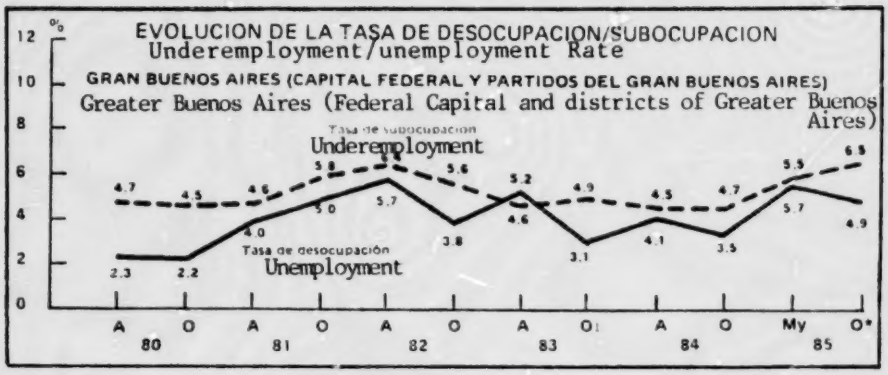
The unemployment level in these four major cities rose from 5.6 percent in April 1984 to 6.1 percent in October of that year, to 7.2 percent in April 1985 and finally to 7.6 percent in October of last year.

During the same months underemployment stood at 6.8, 8.1, 9.5 and 9.6 percent.

Unemployment stood at 7.4 percent and underemployment at 8.3 percent in the remaining metropolitan areas in the interior, both all-time records.

The jobless rate stood at 5.9 percent in October 1984 and 6.9 percent in April 1985.

INDEC noted that one of the reasons for the increase in unemployment is that the economy cannot absorb workers entering the job market. It added, however, that in the cities in which economic activity has slowed markedly, young people are less willing to look for work, which means that they are not categorized as unemployed.



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LIBERAL CANDIDATE SPEAKS OUT ON SAN ANDRES, PEACE PROCESS

Barco: Colombian Sovereignty Indisputable

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Apr 86 pp 1-A, 8-B

[Article by Jesus Medina S., editor]

[Text] Colombian sovereignty over the islands of San Andres and Providencia is indisputable, according to Virgilio Barco Vargas, liberal leader and presidential candidate, yesterday. He felt that "the confusion created in Nicaragua about rights over the archipelago is disconcerting."

Barco Vargas stated: "The archipelago of San Andres and Providencia is and will continue to be Colombian. Sovereignty over those island territories is not open to discussion."

He said: "That right of sovereignty is more than 100 years old." He also recalled that the inhabitants of the archipelago have always demonstrated their decision to belong to Colombia and, on several occasions, have unequivocally proven their loyalty to the fatherland.

As to Colombia's action in the Contadora Group, the liberal leader said: "This has been an act of goodwill, good services, to try to find a solution to the Central American conflict."

He warned that it is very important that it never be interpreted in Central America or anywhere else to mean that the government of "Colombia is subordinating or ignoring national interests by these acts of cordiality and friendship."

The presidential candidate stated: "Countries do not love or show affection. Countries have interests and the first obligation of the government of a nation is to defend the territorial integrity of the fatherland."

Barco Vargas spoke during a meeting with members of the United Front of San Andres and Providencia. They presented him with a letter of endorsement for his presidential candidacy.

This movement is a coalition of parties and political groups that include New Liberalism, government liberals, the Liberal Renovation Movement, and the Pastrano sector of conservatism.

The San Andres leaders expressed complete rejection of Nicaragua's claims to the archipelago and stressed their determination to work hard to elect Barco Vargas president next 25 May.

The document is signed by: the representative to the Chamber, Alvaro Archbold Manuel; the alternate representative, Ken Francis James; intendance councilors Rosales Hooker Manuel, Leyro Karol Ben Archbold, and Winston Bowie Pomare; and community leader Heraldo Williams.

Indisputable Rights

In a short speech, the liberal leader and candidate referred to recent statements made in Panama by the Nicaraguan foreign minister, Miguel D'Escoto.

The chief diplomat of the Sandinist Government again claimed Nicaraguan sovereignty over the islands of San Andres and Providencia during the meeting the Contadora Group, the Support Group, and the foreign ministers of the Central American countries held recently in Panama.

Expressing gratitude for the endorsement by the San Andres leaders, Barco Vargas gave a brief historical outline which proves Colombia's indisputable sovereignty over the archipelago. He said:

"It is disconcerting that confusion has been created about Colombia's rights over the archipelago of San Andres and Providencia. Those rights are not based on the Esguerra-Barcenas Treaty. Colombian sovereignty over the islands of San Andres and Providencia, the cays, and the surrounding area goes back more than 100 years. In 1802, the inhabitants of San Andres and Providencia asked the king of Spain to place the archipelago under the jurisdiction of the Viceroyalty of New Granada. In 1803, by royal order, the canton of San Andres and Providencia, with all the islands and other island territory, was taken away from the Captaincy of Guatemala and placed under the jurisdiction of the Viceroyalty of New Granada."

"The Mosquito Coast was also placed under the jurisdiction of the Viceroyalty of New Granada. After independence, the countries adopted the thesis that the boundaries between the new nations would be the boundaries of the Spanish administrative districts. This was done to avoid gaps where European or other imperialists could take possession of integral parts of the continent. That is the Uti Possidetis Iuris principle of 1810 which you cite. It was recognized by the League of Cooperation of the United Provinces of Central America."

Self-Determination

The liberal candidate referred to a topic brought up by the members of the United Front, the self-determination of the peoples. He stated:

"In the 1822 plebiscite, the inhabitants of San Andres and Providencia decided to espouse the 1821 Constitution of Cucuta and send a delegation to study the Constitution of the Colombian Republic. Later, President Santos Gutierrez ordered that the Colombian Constitution be translated into English as a sign of the spirit of liberalism, respect for minorities, customs, freedom of religion, freedom of thought, and the cultural values of all Colombians."

Barco Vargas also said that discussion of the Esguerra-Barcenas Treaty is not relevant. Colombian sovereignty has deeper roots in the Uti Possidetis Iuris principle which has not been discussed in any country in America.

The presidential candidate maintained: "You clearly present this in the letter you have given me. I think there is a very clear explanation of why you feel, are, and will always be Colombians. The country owes you a debt of gratitude for the demonstrations of patriotism you have shown throughout history."

Contadora Action

As to the peace negotiations of the Contadora Group--Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela--Barco Vargas stated that it has performed an act of goodwill to try to find a solution to the Central American crisis.

He added that it is necessary and very important that it be made clear that the efforts Colombia has made with other countries to seek peace in Central America through the so-called Contadora Group "is an act of goodwill, good services, to end the conflict."

He warned that it is also very important that it never be interpreted in Central America or anywhere else to mean that Colombia or the Colombian Government is subordinating or ignoring national interests by these actions of cordiality and friendship.

He stated: "Countries do not love or show affection. Countries have interests and the first obligation of the government of a country is to defend the territorial integrity of the fatherland."

Letter from People of San Andres

Below are some paragraphs of the letter presented by the representatives of the United Front of San Andres:

"The objective of the United Front is to maintain representation in Congress through people morally and intellectually capable of defending the interests of all the inhabitants--native, continental, nationalized, or foreign--without discrimination, working for economic, social, and cultural improvements and the planning of integral and harmonious development, ecologically formulated.

"Those of us who form and support the United Front clearly and categorically express our conviction and position, traditionally demonstrated by the peoples of the islands, of complete rejection of foreign claims over our island

territory, especially those of the Republic of Nicaragua. Nicaragua unilaterally tries to ignore signed bilateral treaties, royal deeds of the Spanish Crown, territorial rights of the American countries based on the Uti Possidetis Iuris principle, and especially the self-determination of our people who chose Colombia as their sovereign on 23 June 1822.

"Dr Barco, you know all this and the determination of the island people who do not have any doubts about our Colombian nationality."

Country with Difficulties

Virgilio Barco Vargas, liberal leader and presidential candidate, warned that after the party is in government again, it will not be an easy task to reconstruct Colombia. "We will inherit a country beset by difficulties, shortages, lack of planning, and disasters."

In another attack against the government of President Belisario Betancur, the party leader stated: "From the legion of unemployed whose number is unprecedented in our history to the figures that demonstrate the treasury crisis and the state's inability to meet its commitments, there is not one single sector of national activity that does not have very serious problems. We must undertake solutions the very day the liberal administration takes office."

The presidential candidate also announced his government's commitment to end the anachronistic inequalities that persist in our society and design an efficient state capable of guaranteeing the well-being, security, and civilized coexistence of the Colombian people.

Barco Vargas made these statements when installing the coordination groups for his presidential campaign. This ceremony was held yesterday in the headquarters of the National Liberal Directorate.

Peace Process 'Failed'

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 8 Apr 86 pp 1-A, 7-A

[Text] Liberal candidate Virgilio Barco maintained that the current government's peace process "has failed because there has been no direct action by the state." He stated this in an interview granted last Sunday to journalist Yamid Amat.

Barco noted that several mistakes have been committed in the process, especially not including members of the government on the different committees for dialogue or verification. He repeated the announcement that, under his government, the peace commission will meet in the president's office "so that the state can answer for a process that I consider enormously important."

He added: "I think that it is fundamental for the state to provide services when it has allowed regulations to be ignored. A family cannot be punished because the state let it build in an inadequate site."

The presidential candidate also indicated that control of the rising cost of living requires a very serious fiscal policy and correction of the shortages in agricultural-livestock products.

He noted: "The government has to control the factors that increase the cost of living." He then indicated that the only way to avoid price increases for agricultural-livestock products is through production efficiency. This depends on the following factors: that the peasant have the proper technology, be able to obtain productive seed in the best form possible, be able to obtain fertilizer on time, obtain credit when he needs it, and have good transportation.

As to housing, Barco noted that it is necessary to find low-cost production systems with lower interest or a system that does not depend on the UPAC [Constant-Value Savings and Loan Certificate]. He added: "It is necessary to increase the housing available so that certain houses can be used for single-family housing."

He advocated urban reform through suitable and just purchases made by experts "with guarantees and adequate compensation."

He then revealed: "The state has the obligation to provide services to people who live in houses that the state let them build even though they were not within the municipal ordinance." He noted that services can improve because the problems are mostly due to the fact that they are poorly administered.

He repeated that the problem he will focus on most is unemployment. He noted: "I have talked about the social economy which means using the economy so that it results in social benefits. Enterprises should not just produce profits but also produce jobs."

He agreed that unemployment, like the construction of small houses, is causing instability in the home. He added that, despite the fact that there are thousands of opportunities in the country, there is idle capital, idle manpower, and many social projects to do but no work. He concluded: "This means the economic policy has been inadequate for creating employment."

Referring to insecurity, he proposed the creation of a supplementary corps or an additional corps of preventive police "to help a child cross the street, to protect homes, to help in the neighborhood." He explained that unemployed graduates could be hired for this. They could form this preventive police corps "with civilian objectives to return tranquillity to the home and end that state of fear that exists everywhere."

He added: "We can give the youths short-term job opportunities to solve that priority problem through social action. The youths could provide a very useful service in the countryside and in the city and, at the same time, have a job."

As to subversion, he said that Colombians must unite for change. He added: "There cannot be peace in Colombia, complete peace, unless there is complete change, an in-depth change. The country is experiencing an enormous social

crisis, an economic crisis, and a political crisis. We have to make an in-depth change in the institutions, in the way of life of the state."

Lastly, he expressed the hope that Senator Luis Carlos Galan and his followers "find that what is best for Colombia is a liberal government so that we can unite with him for the change that the entire country demands and that the liberal party can provide through a liberal program to benefit all Colombians."

7717
CSO: 3348/527

POLITICAL 'UNDERSTANDING' WITH U.S. OUTLINED

San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 14 Feb 86 pp 6, 27

[Article by Rodolfo Pastor F.]

[Text] 3. Dignified Cooperation with the United States

The most delicate problem in our foreign policy is probably our relations with the United States. The Americans represent a friendly power. Most knowledgeable Hondurans admire their ideals of freedom and respect for human rights as well as their technological progress and their cultural contributions. However, the geostrategic interests of the superpower cross our boundaries and often our sovereign rights. Under those circumstances, our close relationship with the United States has given way to confusions that have led critics to speak of selling out, losing, or leasing our national sovereignty. However, it is a political problem rather than a legal one.

Through mere realism if not affinity, we are forced to cooperate with the United States and to consider its legitimate interests. Most of our foreign trade is with it and it gives us almost all the technical and financial aid that we receive so we depend to a great extent on its goodwill. There are no better alternatives. However, we must also place our own vital interests first--that is, our need for peace and stability for development. We owe the United States hospitality and gratitude but we owe ourselves the preservation of our priceless national dignity and inalienable self-determination. Our countries must cooperate to the extent that their national interests coincide or at least are not opposed. They must respect each other's independent policies.

That form of respectful cooperation is feasible if the Honduran Government clearly establishes the legal limits of its cooperation (defined by international law), the rules of the game for investment and foreign economic activity, and the economic sovereignty of the state--that is, its right to design a model of development and an economic policy (fiscal, monetary, investment) consistent with that project.

Two different types of problems have arisen in our relationship with the United States, more due to our lack of definition than to foreign abuse. First are the problems generated by the inevitable conflicts between our different

national interests. Second are those that occur because of the conflicts between our national interest and those of U.S. citizens and legal persons with interests in Honduras.

In order to resolve the latter conflicts, there must be a foreign investment law that clearly specifies the rights and obligations of the foreign investor. This involves defining conditions that, in turn, enable the businessman to confidently make calculations, the basis of his willingness to run risks to obtain a profit. Then, only the political desire to implement the law and make it respected will be needed. That law must also agree with its equivalents in the fraternal countries of Central America with which we want to integrate our economy. (If, by courting foreign capital, we do not protect local interests and those of our neighbor, the result in the long run will be counterproductive.) Often the private interests of U.S. enterprises are confused with the national interests of the United States. The United States has regional interests that go far beyond those of its citizens. We cannot make the people or the government of the United States responsible for the abuses of a handful of businessmen.

There is an international law recognized by both countries to resolve the problems that stem from our different national interests. The government of a sovereign country will ultimately determine the suitability of any foreign recommendation and must reject any attempt to force it to adopt a model of development that implies multinationalization or the denationalization of the economy. Finally, it will be necessary to cautiously and firmly reject foreign attempts to compromise our rights and our international obligations to third countries that have proven that they are responsible. It will be easy to receive endorsement from the international community for that. The United States will have all the necessary legal cooperation to insure its basic interests. We trust that it would help us in any emergency and we will be there when it needs us.

7717
CSO: 3248/374

MILITARY TRANSITION COULD FACE DIFFICULTIES

San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 14 Feb 86 p 6

[Editorial: "National Congress Appointed Another FFAA Chief"]

[Text] With almost all the liberal and nationalist votes, the legislative assembly appointed Colonel Humberto Regalado Hernandez commander in chief of the Armed Forces to replace ousted General Walter Lopez Reyes, now in exile in the United States.

Col Regalado Hernandez who was in command of the Navy comes to this top position under special conditions. His term--1 year--is a transition within a transition that saw the rise of Gen Lopez Reyes to military power and the overthrow of General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, who is also in exile in the United States.

By appointing Col Regalado Hernandez to command the military, the National Congress continued the tradition of basically ignoring the proposed slate to focus on the person chosen by the top military. It is no accident, then, that the two accompanying the military ticket--Colonel Castillo Suazo and Colonel Martinez Avila--did not receive a single vote.

The fait accompli, so convincing in Honduran political practice, again reaffirmed its nature. This is political realism required by insurmountable circumstances because, as deputy Edmond L. Bogran pointed out in his excellent speech, Gen Lopez Reyes was not exactly ousted. He felt he had to resign facing the loss of confidence of his peers in the top command.

Apparently, everything has returned to normal in the Armed Forces and the high command's satisfaction with the outcome is obvious. However, there were important experiences on the way which should be reflected on. There were other important ones that outline the future of the military institution and Honduran institutionalism.

For the first time in the history of the National Congress, a military coup did not go unpunished. The deputies had the guts this time to seriously question the overstepping of duties by the Superior Council of the Armed Forces which accepted a resignation that should have been made to the

legislative body. At the same time, they warned about the danger of military prepotency for Honduran institutionalism.

This establishes greater independence for the legislative assembly which will help from now on to moderate the excesses of military power that conspire against the integrity of the military institution itself. It is seriously divided inside by corruption and the subsequent demoralization of its rank and file.

It also changes the process of graduates from Military School reaching the top command. This seemed to be the pattern. Gen Alvarez Martinez, although trained in Argentina, was the first to bring academia to the leadership of our Armed Forces.

Possibly Col Regalado Hernandez' period of transition is nothing more than a pause in that process of professionalization. However, it could also lead to another crisis at the end of a year if the adaptation of the military commands does not improve during this interregnum.

Col Regalado Hernandez who, we assume, will soon be promoted to general has a great responsibility: preparing a generational transition in order and harmony. With the existing elements of corruption and demoralization, the door is still open to the sergeants.

7717
CSO: 3248/374

PDCH ACTIVIST NUNEZ RESIGNS FROM PARTY

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 17 Feb 86 p 22

[Text] A well known PDCH [Honduran Christian Democratic Party] activist, Carlos Alfredo Nunez Carcamo, has resigned from that party, and because of the party's present condition, he indicated that he may induce other members to follow the same course.

The resignation sent to the PDCH's National Executive Board was dated 3 February. His membership card, no 800050, was also attached.

"I believe that this very small party will never be able to achieve its objectives, as sectarianism will prevent it from doing so. In addition, the infiltration of the party organization which you are now permitting will block the attainment of its goals," stated his letter of resignation.

"I am pleased to have helped bring about the victory of my friend Alfredo Landaverde. Now, after spending the election campaign period in this way, and being confident of Landaverde's victory, I have irrevocably decided to resign from this political institute, for I believe--and I am excluding many friends from this assessment--that there are people in this party who do not deserve my vote or the support of the Honduran people. They are people who climb up to higher positions and end by thinking of themselves as the bourgeois of Christian Democracy," he indicated.

This dispute stems from the fact that Nunez was removed without advance notice from the National Executive Board headed by Efrain Diaz Arrivillaga, supposedly because Nunez Carcamo supported Landaverde's deputorial candidacy.

7679
CSO: 3248/365

RODISTA MOVEMENT UNDERGOES TRANSFORMATION

Flores New Coordinator

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 17 Mar 86 p 2

[Article by Ludovico Sanchez Turcios]

[Text] The Regular Assembly of the Rodista Liberal Movement met last Saturday under the chairmanship of its until-then secretary general, Ignacio Alberto Rodriguez Espinoza, and Rafael Pineda Ponce.

Interim Governing Body

To comply with legal requirements, the secretary general asked the Assembly to submit candidacies for the new governing body of the above-named internal faction of the Liberal Party.

Luis Alberto Rubi, representative from Comayagua, after making a number of comments on the Liberal Party's internal situation, accused the Azconista Movement's leaders "of tyrannizing the party and launching a persecution against the Liberals themselves, who are being fired from their public administration jobs for not having been supporters of the present president."

Rubi submitted a slate of candidates for the Rodista Governing Body, consisting of Rafael Pineda Ponce for chairman, Vera Rubi de Pineda for vice chairman, and Guillermo Sevilla Gamero and Arturo Echenique Santos for secretaries.

Special Assembly

Echenique moved that "to proceed legitimately and be able to reform the by-laws, this Regular Assembly be adjourned and a Special Assembly convened immediately, so as to be able to introduce a draft of reforms that had been drawn up by an ad hoc committee."

Echenique's motion was seconded by the delegate from Valle, Augusto Aguilar, and Vera Rubi de Pineda.

The Special Assembly having been convened, former Secretary General of the Rodista Movement, Rodriguez Espinosa, read to it the handwritten resignation of former President of the Republic Roberto Suazo Cordova as general coordinator, "leaving the rank and file free to provide an opportunity to young and highly capable members of the Rodista Movement to rise to positions of leadership; but they can always count on my decided support and fraternal affection," the note says.

The Assembly voted to accept his resignation, considering that Suazo Cordova "has carried out his historic role as a political leader and as the helmsman of liberalism in two electoral victories, besides having contributed to the third triumph of liberalism that made it possible for one Liberal to transfer the presidential office to another Liberal."

Agreement on Expression of Appreciation

Upon acceptance of his resignation, the Rodista Governing Body voted to appoint an ad hoc committee to draft a decree of appreciation for the work of the erstwhile general coordinator, former President Suazo Cordova.

This decree was proposed by Luis Alberto Rubi who, together with Oscar Saady Bueso, Fermin Mayorga Reanos and Alejandro Ulloa, drafted the final wording.

The decree having been approved, the chairman of the Governing Body appointed a committee consisting of Carlos Roberto Flores, Roberto Michelleti Bain, Fermin Mayorga Reanos, Vera Rubi de Pineda, Miguel Lardizabal Becerra and Juan de la Cruz Avelar Leiva, to travel to the city of La Paz and deliver personally the decree, which was worded in simple form, as a token of the appreciation the members of the Assembly wished to express to the former coordinator of the Rodista Movement.

By-Law Reforms

Continuing, Pineda Ponce read the draft of the proposed reforms to the by-laws of the Rodista Movement, and stated the reasons and aims of the proposed changes.

These reforms, he said, are necessary because the present by-laws do not provide for departmental representation. They would also change the makeup of the National Governing Body, transforming it into a Central Coordinating Board, made up of nine members, to provide for more ample participation by the Rodista youth. And in addition, they would eliminate several obstacles that otherwise hinder the accession of younger members to positions of leadership.

This set of proposed reforms was drawn up by Carlos Roberto Flores, Rene Corea Cortes, Filiberto Isaula, Marta de Herrera, and Carlos Mariano Martinez.

The finished draft was put to a vote and approved unanimously, making it possible to proceed with the structuring of the new executive functions.

Nominations for the Central Coordinating Board having been opened, Salomon Saravia, delegate from Copan, introduced the slate that was elected by popular acclamation, and the Assembly proceeded to elections for the Policy Committee, which was enlarged to consist of 9 members in place of 3.

The slate proposed by Vera Rubi de Pineda and voted into office was as follows: Oscar Mejia Arellano, Oscar Servellon Silva (of MOLI), Oscar Saady Bueso, Miguel Lardizabal Becerra, Armando Moreno Alvarado, Fausto Castillo Suazo, Arturo Echenique Santos, Antonio Benitez Perino, and Marco Tulio Rodriguez Palomo.

National Coordinating Board

An innovation in the governing makeup of the Rodista Movement, provided for in the reformed by-laws, is the National Coordinating Board, whose membership was voted on the basis of nominations from the floor by the delegates of the departments represented in the Assembly.

[Boxed material]: The Central Coordinating Board

General Coordinator	Carlos Roberto Flores
Secretary General	Rafael Pineda Ponce
Assistant Secretary General	Oscar Armando Avila
Secretary of Finance	Norman Hernandez
Secretary for Legal Affairs	Luis Alberto Rubi
Secretary for Organization and Publicity	Carlos Mariano Martinez
Secretary for Policy Implementation	Augusto Aguilar
Secretary for Workers and Farmers Affairs	Guillermo Sevilla Gamero
Secretary for Youth and Student Affairs	Fermin Mayorga
Secretary for Women's and Social Affairs	Marta de Herrera
Secretary of Transportation	Roberto Michelleti Bain

Substitutes: Jorge A. Vasquez, Francisco Javier Pineda, Rene Corea Cortes, Celso Efrain Reyes Meraz, Aracely Rodriguez, Ada Argentina, and Alejandro Ulloa.

Suazo Cordova Exits

San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 17 Mar 86 p 14

[Article by GP]

[Text] Tegucigalpa--The restructured Liberal Rodista Movement plans to win the Liberal Party's primary elections and the Presidency of the Republic in 1989, announced Carlos Flores Facusse, the new coordinator of this Movement.

The goal of the followers of the previous Administration was announced Saturday by engineer Flores Facusse during the meeting of the Rodista National Assembly.

Flores Facusse said that the restructuring of the National Coordinating Congress "involves a complete integration of younger members into the front line of battle and civic struggle together with the older figures."

"We believe this to be fundamental," he said, "to the rallying of the large majority of Liberals within our movement, and of a distinctive dynamic, to the generating of a positive thrust that can project the Movement overwhelmingly into every stratum of the population, into every part of the country."

In statements to the press, Flores Facusse asserted that the former coordinator of the Rodista Movement, Roberto Suazo Cordova, had not been pressured to resign, and what is more--he said--his decision "dignifies his image."

"We have talked with Dr Suazo Cordova on many occasions, and I can tell you that one of his aspirations has always been the renewal and strengthening of the Rodista Movement and the restructuring of its cadres, so as to bring the Movement into step with the times we are experiencing.

"His is not a resignation under pressure, and I want to be categorical in this regard," he emphasized, pointing out that his friendship with Suazo Cordova "continues and will always continue."

"But we must also state a recognized fact, in the sense that Dr Suazo Cordova has already completed a historic mission in this country," said Flores Facusse.

"In other words," he pointed out, "whatever one's nature, whatever one's accomplishments, one must be ready to make way, to make way for the political evolution of movements, of institutions."

Another With Renewed Energy

Flores Facusse said that "In keeping with this integration, in accordance with this new energy, we are going to project the Movement into every stratum of the population, into every rural locality, and every city."

He announced that "We are aiming to capture control within our party; we are going to strengthen our Movement, integrate it and unite it within the rank and file, where it belongs in the civic struggle, in the common struggle, where liberalism's far-reaching dialogues are launched, and where we all join hands in concepts around a common doctrine," he said. He pointed out that "The task is a vast one; we must restructure and integrate cadres throughout the country, visit the different departments and coordinate views, dialogue with the various currents of thought encompassed by liberalism; and in that sense, the struggle is a monumental one."

He said the intent is to impart to the Rodista Movement a new dynamic that will strengthen it. "And take our word for it, we are going to transform it into a strong and powerful movement that is going to win the forthcoming elections in this country."

In an official statement to the delegates at the Assembly, Flores Facusse affirmed that this political action constitutes the rescue of the "Rodista Movement's dignity."

Suazo announced that talks will be undertaken with the Liberal Party's other groups with a view to unifying that political institution.

Carlos Floreds accused the members of the party's Azcota faction of having made a political mistake when they turned over to the Callejistas a large share of power, despite the fact that the Liberal Party had won the last elections.

He said that his group "has a clear conscience," since the Rodistas had indeed proposed to Jose Azcona Hoyo's group a union with the Rodista bench in Congress, but this offer had been turned down.

He announced that the Rodista deputies in Congress will adopt an attitude of support for the Administration when the bills introduced in the Chamber are beneficial, but will openly oppose such bills as are contrary to the interests of the majority.

He said that an attitude of unyielding criticism will be maintained where Liberals of the Rodista faction are removed from their jobs with the state, and one of condemnation of all actions directed against the Rodista Movement.

He said that before going for the winning of the presidential office in 1989, unity within the Liberal Party will first be achieved, to be followed by unity of the people.

He said the Rodista Movement will henceforth project "a new and renovated image capable of winning control within the Liberal Party, and then the national elections."

Flores Facusse made light of the reforms to the Law on Elections and Political Organizations that are being contemplated, which would do away with the recognition of political party factions.

9399
CSO: 3248/359

MINISTER-DESIGNATE ROSENTHAL PREDICTS DEMISE OF PUN

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 1 Mar 86 p 7

[Article by Antonio Pineda Green]

[Text] During the course of a speech on "The National Unity Pact: What It Is, What It Should Be," the speaker [Jaime Rosenthal Oliva, minister designate to the department of the presidency], noted that a breakup of the agreement between Azcona and the nationalist leader, Rafael Leonardo Callejas, is inevitable.

He warned that in the end, the PUN really will have little or no governmental responsibility, for when the history of Honduras is written--in the short, medium, or long term--people will remember the Jose Azcona government and will not talk about a national unity regime or about shared responsibility.

Noting that Honduras is starting along its course toward democracy, for which there must exist, in addition to the one party in office, a party in the opposition, he emphasized that democracy in almost all countries shows that the party which wins the election, even if by only a one-vote margin, is the party that controls the executive power and all the appointments which flow from that one-vote majority.

He indicated that minority parties do have rights and obligations, so they must have the protection of law, and provide a constant opposition in order to maintain a balance.

He emphasized that "when we are all in agreement with the government, the results are different than if there is a constant constructive criticism."

Honduras may perhaps have the same problems as other Central American nations, he observed. Still, in this country, even though we have had military governments and dictatorships, groups of people have come forth who have kept up an opposition to these governments.

He did admit, though, that it is essential that a consensus exist within the country about the goals to be pursued and about the search for progress and development for all the Honduran people. That is where national unity must be sought.

Problem: Distributions

He remarked that the problem with pacts or agreements arises when [national unity] is sought in the distribution of positions and not in shared goals that everyone wants. The problem appears when the pacts are based on someone getting control of one part of the government, and someone else getting the remaining part.

He noted that those who participate by signing a pact or an agreement have restricted their possibilities of criticizing the actions which the government may perform, whether for good or ill.

Rosenthal firmly believes that the government of Jose Azcona will be "a great government because he is," he emphasized, "an honest, decent man who really wants progress in Honduras for all the Honduran people."

Nonetheless, he called attention to the fact that no matter how good Jose Azcona and the advice given him may be, "there will always be mistakes and members of the government team who do not faithfully perform their obligations; therefore," he said, "we must have an opposition to point out those mistakes."

Moreover, he noted that Honduras is a courageous nation whose people admire those who are in the opposition, who point out mistakes and criticize. That is why Azcona is president today, for during the Roberto Suazo Cordova regime he adopted a daring and critical position, without showing a trace of fear.

He felt that the National Party group (the Callejista National Movement), which signed the National Unity Pact, will be forced to abandon it, "for if they don't, they are going to lose elections in their own party," he commented.

On that topic, he predicted that the PUN [National Unity Pact] is not going to work, for as they limit their right to criticize, there will be others in the National Party who will take over the lead from them.

He pointed out that when they do abandon the PUN, that will be an act of disloyalty, for they will have failed to honor a pact and a commitment.

He argued that it is more loyal for an opposition party to maintain a firm, honest, decent and constructive opposition, for "opposition" does not necessarily mean that we are going to be against everything, but rather that we are going to point out mistakes and ways of correcting those mistakes.

He said: "It will be very hard for the group led by Rafael Leonardo Callejas to stay in the pact. They will have to leave, but they will have to find an elegant way of doing so."

He stated that the breakup of a pact or agreement does not necessarily imply a lack of communication or friendship between the members or the leaders of the various parties, for Callejas is a friend of Azcona and vice versa, and that friendship should endure, since both share the same goal and the same desire to move Honduras forward.

He said, speaking "publicly and with complete generosity" that "I am a personal friend of Rafael Leonardo Callejas, a good friend. He is a man for whom I feel affection, admiration and respect. He is a man with whom a person can talk and discuss issues without creating political enmities, as has happened in the past."

Though he said that "perhaps history will prove me wrong," he noted that he was going to venture to predict categorically that the pact is not going to last for the 4 years of Jose Azcona's term in office, because it will not suit the National Party group for it to last.

He made it clear that his opposition to the pact, both initially and later, was not due to the form of the negotiations or because he was not involved in them, "since I didn't want to be involved," but rather because "I felt that at that time we should be negotiating with the other Liberal Party group."

While it is true what many have argued that the Azcona group did not have control of the legislative authority, nor could it select the judicial authority on its own, he said: "I believe those pacts should not have been arranged."

7679
CSO: 3248/365

ALIAZ DEPUTIES SUPPORT MONTOYA CANDIDACY

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 3 Mar 86 p 2

[Text] Last Friday, 48 ALIAZ [Alipo-Azcona Alliance] deputies proclaimed Carlos Orbin Montoya, speaker of the National Congress, to be Jose Azcona's political successor, and consolidated the Movement for Parliamentary Members as Presidential Candidates.

The announcement was based on maintaining support for Azcona Hoyo's Liberal Party Government, considering that liberalism must provide good government to satisfy the needs of the Honduran people and ensure for itself the popular backing it will need in the 1989 elections.

Yes to Municipals

At a meeting in the 5th Rural District of former president of the Central District's Metropolitan Council, Elvin Ernesto Santos, a political analysis was was made of the Liberal Party's internal situation and of the advisability or not of holding or suspending the municipal elections scheduled for 1987.

The attending deputies--among them: Gustavo Gomez Santos, Oscar Melara, Ramon de Jesus Sabillon, Antonio Ortez Turcios, and Mario Lopez--favored holding the municipal elections, affirming that "the Liberal Party needs to recapture those municipalities won in 1985 by the Callejista National Movement, which now controls the National Party."

The position was also supported by Carlos Montoya, who emphasized that "although those elections represent an expense for our party, as well as for the other political organizations, they must be held, because only in that manner can democracy remain effective in Honduras."

No to 'Oficialismo'

The discussion on that topic having concluded in a decision to participate in the municipal elections, the 48 deputies and their substitutes analyzed the national political situation and, above all, that of the proselyting activity being waged by other presidential aspirants, like Rafael Leonardo Callejas in the National Party, and Jorge Roberto Madriaga in the Azconista Movement.

The deputies raised serious questions as to the urgency of choosing Azcona's political successor, citing the risks run by a political group or party in promoting "officialista" candidates [candidates ardently supportive of an incumbent Government's policies].

Manuel Zelaya cautioned: "We must analyze what occurred during the last elections, when former President Suazo Cordova, seeking to maintain control of the party, launched "oficialista" candidates who were rejected by the people in general."

Gustavo Gomez Santos went further, stating that "The people don't like 'officialismo.' The Azconista Movement has already given what it had to give and we are being called upon to keep up our political momentum on new and sincere bases and with a mind for change."

This Movement, he said, must project a new image; it must be creative so as to offer the electorate an alternative, although we must understand that it is necessary to give all-out support to the present Government.

The Candidate

The deputies expressed their concern as to the political activity being waged by the National Party's Rafael Callejas. "He has not let up," they said. "He is continuing to consolidate his movement as the National Party's sole candidate, and we Liberals must do the same if we want to keep our party in power."

The speakers pointed out that liberalism needs a leader as of now who can guide it to an electoral victory, and felt that Carlos Orbin Montoya is the man to pit against all the other presidential aspirants.

Oscar Melara, Javier Moncada, Antonio Ortez Turcios, Efrain Diaz Galeas, Ramon de Jesus Sabillon, Mario Pineda, Jaime Smith, Nelson Sosa and others spoke in favor of a "precandidatura" [preemptive designation of the party's nominee].

Accepts the Challenge

In his remarks, Montoya stated that he accepts the challenge and confronts the historic responsibility being conferred on him by the 48 deputies.

"My way," he said, "has always been to meet challenges decisively, and for me the proposed presidential candidacy is precisely that--a historic challenge--a challenge that I feel compelled to accept, because I am certain it will have the backing of the people.

"Therefore," he asserted, "I am taking the bat in hand and stepping up to the plate to do battle, and in that battle we as good Liberals will all take part, without lessening the support we owe to the Government of engineer Azcona, who represents the popular will."

The meeting ended after midnight Friday, and before its adjournment a document was drawn up officially constituting the Movement for the Candidacy of Carlos Orbin Montoya.

The participating deputies--it should be pointed out--laid stress on the fact that the majority of the Liberal bench was in agreement to support Montoya's presidential candidacy, considering that only Diogenes Cruz Garcia and Plinio Diaz, who do not have the popular following of the rest of the bench, expressed support for Jorge Roberto Maradiaga.

9399
CSO: 3248/359

COLPROSUMAH FACTIONS CLASH OVER LEADERSHIP

CODEH Calls for Intervention

San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Mar 86 p 8

[Text] Tegucigalpa. CODEH [Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Honduras] has urged the National Congress to take the necessary action to put an end to the COLPROSUMAH [Professional Association for the Improvement of Teaching in Honduras] conflict.

The national leadership of this private institution described the eviction of the authentic leaders of COLPROSUMAH from their headquarters as "alarming."

A statement released by CODEH noted that "this violation of human rights seemed even more alarming to us when we learned that the assailants were apparently accompanied by counterrevolutionaries who have lengthy criminal records in Honduras."

"We call upon the Sovereign National Congress to take the necessary steps to put an end to the COLPROSUMAH conflict," noted the CODEH statement.

Tinoco Seeks CGT Membership

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 18 Feb 86 p 3

[Text] Directors of COLPROSUMAH, led by Roberto Lopez Tinoco, yesterday requested to be affiliated with the CGT [General Workers Federation], in an attempt to establish unity within the national teachers organization.

COLPROSUMAH has close ties with the CGT, through its membership in the CLAT [Latin American Workers Federation], but it is now asking for membership in this local workers federation, in order to deal with its problems with the faction led by Rosario Avila de Dominguez.

Lopez Tinoco, accompanied by other COLPROSUMAH leaders, met yesterday for several hours with the CGT's executive board, analyzing the problems facing COLPROSUMAH, and working out strategies to be followed.

Felicito Avila, secretary of the workers federation, said that restoring unity to the teachers union is urgent, so they must seek formulas that will help in achieving that aim.

He added that as the executive board led by Lopez Tinoco has joined with the CGT, "our organization is obliged to show our solidarity with it, but we shall still continue to seek parameters for a dialogue."

Avilo criticized the fact that in dealing with the problem of the teachers organization, some sectors are not treating it as a union problem, but rather as a political issue, and he urged the committee appointed by the National Congress to seek some points of agreement, and in that way to find an overall solution for this conflict.

He also suggested that the problem be handled by convening a special congress, in which all the sectors involved may take part.

Negotiations Under Way

San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 5 Mar 86 p 5

[Text] Tegucigalpa. The COLPROSUMAH factions which are disputing control of the organization yesterday took the first step toward seeking a solution for the conflict that has disrupted this union since 1982, because of the intervention by the Roberto Suazo Cordova regime.

Leaders of what is known as the Authentic Leadership Board and of the Suazo Cordova faction met yesterday together with the National Congress committee which is investigating the COLPROSUMAH situation.

At the meeting held at the Legislative Palace, which was termed "positive" by the COLPROSUMAH president, Rosario Dominguez, both groups stated their positions.

Representatives of the group headed by Roberto Lopez Tinoco, which had the backing of the Roberto Suazo Cordova regime, stated that they feel a national plebiscite should be held so that the grassroots members of COLPROSUMAH may elect their leaders.

However, the so-called Authentic Board proposed holding a special congress, to be convened by a board of well known persons, as a way out of this conflict. This board would verify the honesty of the proceedings.

Rosario Dominguez said: "This meeting was highly positive," but he noted that "we find it surprising that now the Suazo Cordova people are going out and saying that they are opposed to a special congress. Initially, they said that was the only possible way to resolve the problem."

The teachers union leader said that the congressional committee "offered us an alternative for solving the problem--working with the COLPROSUMAH grassroots."

He noted that representatives of the two COLPROSUMAH factions are scheduled to meet again next Monday with the National Congress committee to give their final answers to the proposal presented yesterday.

The other COLPROSUMAH president, Roberto Lopez Tinoco, said: "We did reach some points of agreement, areas where we think solutions may be found for COLPROSUMAH's internal problems."

"The matter is moving along well, and we are going to continue to work on other aspects, so that we can settle this situation next week," he said.

Lopez Tinoco refused to state the points on which agreement had been reached, saying that "a proposal has been formulated by the congressional committee, which would be kept secret until it was either accepted or rejected."

Government Intervention Criticized

San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 15 Feb 86 p 6

[Editorial: "Confrontation and Terrorism in the National Teachers Union"]

[Text] This week's events at the COLPROSUMAH headquarters reveal the grave position which our country's largest teachers organization is in, due to the repressive intervention of state security organizations, which has continued ever since the end of 1982, the first year of the Suazo Cordova administration.

As the reader will recall, in December 1982 the COLPROSUMAH congress met in Ocotepeque, where there was a split into two factions--one backed by the government, and the other supported by the majority of the delegates. Then the government-backed faction withdrew to hold a separate congress, which appointed its own national leadership.

Following the procedure the regime was using at that time, eliminating from leadership positions in popular and educational organizations--including the UNAH [National Autonomous University of Honduras]--all persons who did not support its corporatist project, in accordance with the National Security doctrine espoused by Gen Gustavo Alvarez Martinez and the well known APROH [Association for Progress in Honduras], the Supreme Court of Justice ratified the government-backed board.

In addition, a suit was brought against Ambrosio Sabio, the leader of what was called the Authentic Group of the teachers union, and a harsh persecution

was unleashed against this faction of COLPROSUMAH, including a raid of its Teguigalpa headquarters by the security police and the arrest of 11 of its leaders, who were charged with being communists engaging in espionage on behalf of the Sandinistas.

At the ministry of public education, whose officials undoubtedly colluded with this repression, they began to fire teachers, replacing them with supporters of the regime, using all sorts of pressures and bribes to achieve their aims. Nonetheless, the rebellion persisted, culminating with the imprisonment of Ambrosio Sabio in December of last year at the order of Judge Bocanegra, the same person responsible for the judicial proceedings in 1982.

Ambrosio Sabio was finally released conditionally for lack of merits in the case against him (for the time being, as is typical here), and it did seem that, with the coming of the new government into office, the COLPROSUMAH problem would move toward a resolution. But it seems that the same terrorist policy designed in the infamous "Apocryphal Memorandum" which led to the downfall of Gen Juan Alberto Melgar Castro in the military government, which is a strategy designed to castrate popular organizations, still continues in force.

On 11 February, the leaders of the Authentic Movement of COLPROSUMAH decided to take possession of the organization's headquarters in Tegucigalpa, which they did. In response to that action, which was certainly violent and contrary to law, the police once again resorted to the expedient of terrorism, instead of proceeding legally and through the judicial system.

A group of approximately 20 individuals armed with submachine guns, pistols and machetes, and using tear gas, burst into the COLPROSUMAH headquarters at night, firing shots. As a consequence of this attack, one of the teachers in the building at that time is still hanging between life and death, and nine others were seriously wounded.

It is clear that there is some form of connivence between government agencies behind all this, as otherwise such an action could not have occurred. Instead of helping to restore order and tranquility to the teachers union, it has rather opened up a new chapter of violence.

This new escalation of repression does no credit to the government of engineer Azcona, from which people had hoped for improvements and more appropriate and civilized ways of solving such problems, which are of the highest importance if the people of Honduras are to live together in peace.

The confrontation within COLPROSUMAH will not be ended by such methods, as it is clear that terrorism leads only to violence, death and destruction.

Therefore, the appropriate step is for the government to promote fair negotiations between the opposing sectors, putting aside its forces of repression and the ill-advised proposals of the fascist National Security doctrine.

7679
CSO: 3248/362

PAPER SAYS MAJOR PARTIES SEEK TO 'STIFLE' SMALL PARTIES

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 7 Mar 86 p 2

[Text] The president of the PDCH [Honduran Christian Democratic Party], Efrain Diaz Arrivillaga, said that the traditional parties, acting through the Azconista and Callejista movements, are using election law reforms in an attempt to maintain their monopoly on power and to stifle the small parties.

Diaz Arrivillaga noted that before any action of that nature is carried out, the traditional parties should remember certain points contained in the Document of Agreement which they signed in May of last year, to bring an end to the institutional crisis.

There are three principal aspects of that agreement which should be taken into account, he indicated: the first point is the agreement to hold internal party elections; secondly, the economic independence which political institutions are supposed to have; and finally, separate elections.

"Until now only the Liberal and National Parties have talked about reforming the election law. We have been shunted aside; we know absolutely nothing about the content of these reforms. From what the press has published, we do know that what they are trying to do is to eliminate the political debt and set a specific percentage for the parties to keep their legal status, which will be a minimum of 50,000 votes," he stated.

If that is the case, he said, "this action has no other purpose but to keep the two-party monopoly in power, with very clear designs of stifling smaller but growing parties, in this instance, the PDCH and the PINU [Innovation and Unity Party].

"We hereby give notice that we will not yield to these plans, and that we will fight to the bitter end to block this attack against us," he declared.

Diaz Arrivillaga said he was "surprised by these actions," as President Jose Azcona has publicly stated that he will respect all these agreements.

That is a reasonable position, for it was a serious commitment made between all political sectors with the backing of the Armed Forces of Honduras and the workers and peasants, "who must be alert to what some people are now trying to do."

LABOR, BUSINESS SECTOR, GOVERNMENT SEEK JOINT SOLUTIONS

San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Feb 86 p 4

[Text] Tegucigalpa. Leaders of workers and farmers organizations and directors of the COHEP [Honduran Private Enterprise Council] met yesterday with National Congress deputies to coordinate actions designed to revise the minimum wage and bring about reforms in the Labor Code.

Directors of ANDI [National Industrialists Association], AMPI [National Association of Small and Midsized Industries], and of the National Exporters Association of Honduras also took part in this meeting, which lasted for about 2 hours.

At this meeting an agreement was reached to set up tripartite technical commissions to study the Labor Code reforms and the minimum wage increase.

The private sector's representatives at the meeting maintained that a minimum wage hike would result in greater unemployment in Honduras, and that action should instead be directed toward opening up new sources of jobs.

The president of COHEP, Dr Jorge Gomez Andino, said that private enterprise "is concerned about the enormous unemployment now existing in our country, and we have asked the National Congress to set up a commission to combat unemployment."

He stated that a minimum wage increase would be of no use unless a policy of investment incentives were established, and that reforms in the Labor Code must be made for the benefit of the nation and not of one specific sector."

Employers Must Become More Human; Artiles

The secretary general of the CTH [Confederation of Honduran Workers], Andres Victor Artiles, said that the demand for a minimum wage increase is designed to improve the salary conditions of unorganized workers.

He indicated that the minimum wage has remained static since 1980, and that private enterprise opposes an increase "to keep its dividends and profits from being affected."

"Nonetheless, as we have been saying at this meeting, we believe that they must analyze the situation, in order to improve the living conditions of the Honduran people."

Victor Artiles said that "employers must become more human so they can truly respond to the process of change which our nation needs, because the establishment of social justice depends on them more than on anyone else."

He noted that the workers and farmers organizations are not opposed to businessmen campaigning to have the state grant them more incentives and greater protection for investors. "For us, the important thing is that there must be no exploitation of man by man," he emphasized.

7679
CSO: 3248/361

ANDI SEEKS PROTECTIVE MEASURES FROM AZCONA

San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 15 Feb 86 p 2

[Article by EDT]

[Text] San Pedro Sula--The executive junta of the ANDI [National Association of Industrialists] met yesterday to draw up a document that is to be presented next week to engineer Jose Azcona Hoyo, in which, among other things, substantial changes in the country's economic policy are to be requested, along with the creation of a special fund for industry, consisting of the additional revenues that will be received from coffee.

The incentives the industrialists will be requesting will include: The granting of credits against income tax paid by investors; provision in the economic legislation for recognizing capital losses; and changes in the legislation, especially as regards tax concessions, so that all sectors will be placed on an equal footing from the standpoint of tax relief granted on imports of raw materials and capital goods.

As a case in point, the ANDI does not agree that a business firm should pay high taxes for the import of machinery while a cooperative is exempt from having to pay them.

The document also requests that incentives be provided to exporting firms, in the form of increases in foreign exchange to be made available to those firms that succeed in substantially increasing their exports.

"The aim of our proposals is to help resolve the problem of the lack of foreign exchange and the problem of unemployment, and to contribute to the resolving of the problem of the country's fiscal and international trade deficits," said lawyer Edwin Rosenthal, president of ANDI.

The meeting, which was held at the CCIC [Cortes Chamber of Commerce and Industries], was also attended by members of this organization who pertain to the industrial sector, and by the ANMPI [National Association of Small- and Medium-Sized Industry] represented by its president, Juan Cruz, all of whom endorse the document.

Enlargement of Free Zones

Rosenthal Oliva indicated that a request will also be made that the present free zone operating in Puerto Cortes be enlarged to include the entire country; a bill in this regard will also be submitted to the ad hoc committee the Congress has formed together with COHEP, for introduction at the next session of the Highest Judicial Authority.

"It is also important," said businessman Oliva, "that industrial parks be allowed to operate, so as to be able to attract foreign firms and international investments, thus producing more exports."

The document will also address the problems the industries see in the operation of the autonomous agencies, like "the poor and expensive services being provided by the National Electric Power Agency, the high tariffs charged by the National Port Company, which tariffs must be revised and reduced." The document will also propose the reactivating of the ANDI-ENEE Commission to study the possible reduction of electric power rates.

Against the 'Minimum'

The issue of the increase in the minimum wage, which was an item on the agenda, was finally not discussed for lack of some documents that ANDI had requested from Ministry of Labor and the Central Bank, for the purpose of studying the case.

However, Rosenthal Oliva said that, from a personal standpoint, he is not in favor of the granting of the proposed increment, because it would contribute to a rise in the levels of inflation and unemployment.

"Also to be requested is a lowering of the interest rates involved in the financing of industry, especially for small- and medium-sized industries, and the creating of a special fund for industry, using the additional revenues to be received from coffee, to help resolve the foreign exchange problem, which, with the end of the Industrial Reactivation Program, has now become acute," said the president of ANDI.

He announced that the Central Bank has applied to the BID for a loan of $40 million which, if granted, will be made available to industry in the for of loans at a 15-percent interest rate. This alternative was resorted to by the Central Bank after the Government was unable to obtain an extension of its BID loans through the PRI, owing to the lateness with which it had submitted its application.

The industrialists of the CCIC attending the meeting submitted a document to ANDI for the purpose of analyzing and discussing the barter transactions being effected at the Central American level; however, this was not discussed, it having been decided to await availability of the results of this form of trade that is about to be instituted with El Salvador.

Economic Advisory Board Worries ANDI

Rosenthal Oliva indicated that "Engineer Azcona Hoyo's Government must be given a grace period yet, inasmuch as it has barely taken office; however, we are definitely worried about the persons that have been sought to make up the Economic Advisory Board. We believe they are not the most qualified, with the exception of the minister of economy, who is fully qualified to head the Ministry, even though he is the one at whom most of the criticism in our midst has been directed.

"No one should feel offended by these remarks, since we feel that many Government officials have been appointed more out of political considerations than for their capabilities and honesty," he said.

9399
CSO: 3248/359

ANDEPH CALLS FOR 'DEPOLITICIZATION' OF GOVERNMENT WORKERS

San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 18 Feb 85 p 5

[Text] Tegucigalpa. ANDEPH [National Association of Government Employees of Honduras] has asked President Jorge Azcona Hoyo to regulate the direct involvement of government employees in political activities and to eliminate the "political tax."

In a proposal delivered to the president, engineer Azcona Hoyo, last Friday, ANDEPH said that participation by government officials and workers in political activities "irremediably generates political abuses in the exercise of the government's duties."

"Political activism must not be the principal objective of government employees; their fundamental responsibility is to perform tasks related to the general interest," the statement argued.

On the subject of the "political tax," which is manifested in the obligation to contribute to political organizations, ANDEPH noted that "far from being an edifying and beneficial practice promoting the professionalization of government administration, it results in the politicization of this administration and a commitment to reward political activities and not professional skills and job performance."

It further noted that the creation of an effective law to combat corruption can not be further delayed. "Let us avoid a situation in which corruption becomes even more skillful, insidious and modern, while the mechanisms designed to control it constantly grow more ponderous, inapplicable and obsolete," warned ANDEPH.

ANDEPH also asked President Azcona Hoyo to respect government workers' job stability. "Layoffs of government employees are only justifiable if they result from decisions covered in the established legal regulations. Using layoffs as a means of persecuting public servants because of partisan political discrimination is unacceptable," the statement added.

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CONTRABAND TRADE AFFECTING BUSINESS OF DISTRIBUTING COMPANIES

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 19 Feb 86 p 6

[Text] [Jorge Gomez Andino, president of the Honduran Private Enterprise Council] said that government authorities are doing nothing to prevent the illegal influx of a large quantity of foreign manufactured products, which are sold in the domestic market at very low prices, since the contraband importers pay no import duties.

Faced with the authorities' indifference, the distributors have decided to reduce their operations by 50 percent starting next month [March]. This will cause the layoff of about 600 workers.

He explained that this measure will have a direct impact on the national treasury, since it will reduce the amount paid for import duties, sales and other taxes by between 25 and 30 million lempiras.

Among the companies hurt by contraband, the business leader mentioned the Barret Agency, International Distributor, Istmania, DIAPA, DIUNSA, DIMERC, International Supplier, Satellite Distributor and others which have been legally operating in Honduras for a number of years.

Since last year the business community has been complaining that smugglers have been using freight cars to bring into Honduras huge quantities of popular consumer goods, primarily processed foods, with the complicity of some finance ministry officials.

They added that the devaluation of the [Guatemalan] quetzal and the Salvadoran colon has greatly helped the operations of the contraband importers, who have sufficient resources to bribe customs officials and to sell their merchandise at "bargain basement" prices, in a competition that is unfair to the distributing companies.

7679
CSO: 3248/361

ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, LABOR UNREST DETAILED

Ortega: Plan Can Change

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 20 Apr 86 p 5

[Text] The working session was still going on at nearly 1900 hours, and after 24 people had spoken, many more were waiting their turn to address the president of the republic, Cmdr Daniel Ortega, and his cabinet members. As is their custom, the president and his cabinet were Facing the Nation to hear about the concerns and problems that are hampering production levels in the country.

This meeting was an encounter with the leaders of the country's various economic sectors, urban and rural workers, who are in direct contact with the nation's economic situation. Gathered in one of the yards of the Adolfo Garcia Barberena State Prodouction Unit (UPE), in El Crucero, they began to review the achievements of the first quarter of the economic plan, with a view to establishing goals for 1986 production.

Three hours before the Face the Nation session began, the workers were already there, waiting under the broiling sun. After the Sandinist Government leaders were greeted accordingly, the first thing the president of the republic was asked to do was: not to sign the Contadora Agreement. The workers also demanded more weapons to defend the Revolution and the accomplishments it has made possible.

Questions were divided into three rounds, by region and by production sector. The problems of human relations and communication between management and labor in the enterprises were a common theme, as were food shortages, the lack of maintenance, the shortage of components for production, and other issues.

The problems of enforcing labor regulations were discussed, and in that regard, Labor Minister Benedicto Meneses responded that next week the revised agricultural regulations will be ready. These regulations will be released in the form of the new catalogue of standards that was drawn up after consultations with leaders of the Association of Agricultural Workers (ATC), the Ministry of Agricultural-Livestock Development and Agrarian Reform (MIDINRA), UNAG, and the Sandinist Central Organization of Workers (CST).

The vice-president of the republic, Sergio Ramirez Mercado, stated that in the area of banana production it has been decided that a single entity will be responsible for producing and exporting the product. In this regard, he appealed for labor discipline so that the enterprises will be more successful.

The hours were going by, and new problems were mentioned by each worker who spoke. They even called for more vigilance in private enterprises such as the San Antonio and Julio Martinez sugar mills, because they are "boycotting" the 1986 Economic Plan. Francisco Membreno, secretary of propaganda of the ISA, cited the fact that in 1979, 69 tons of sugar was obtained from each manzana, while today that figure is 50 tons.

"There is negligence in productivity," said the leader, who demanded the supervision of the Labor and Housing Ministries in the areas where the workers live.

Isaac Sanchez, an innovator in the Heroes and Martyrs of Grenada group, criticized the CST for neglecting this sector, and the Ministry of Industry for not supporting the group's efforts. Humberto Sevilla, of the Union of Stevedores of San Juan del Sur, in Region IV, asked about the port's future prospects.

Review of Economic Plan

He recalled that in 1985 there were only 28 workdays, with salaries of 1,700 cordobas. Whereas the current goal is 107,000 tons, he noted, in the first 3 months there was only one shipment of 12,000 tons to unload; only two ships arrived instead of the expected five.

The president of the republic, Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega, reminded the workers that the Economic Plan is the guide and the tools to help improve the country's production process in wartime, and it will have to be constantly corrected "on the march."

Comparing the problems raised by the workers with those indicated by reports issued by government officials, he pointed out that they have many points in common, which will contribute to the adjustment of the economic plan. The National Planning Council will be revising that plan in conjunction with the representatives of the CST and the ATC.

He emphasized the workers' eagerness to produce, and criticized the negligence of others who have caused the revolutionary state to lose huge sums. Along these lines, he urged union leaders to ensure compliance with the plan, guaranteeing more efficient work and labor discipline, as well as self-criticism. "Only in this way will they have the moral authority to face these problems," the Sandinist leader warned in conclusion.

Workers Take Over Enterprise

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Apr 86 pp 1, 5

[Text] The recent take-over of the National Clothing Enterprise (ENAVES) complex by the workers opened the floodgates of a problem that threatens a strategic industry in the textile sector due to a combination of errors, limitations, and deficiencies.

BARRICADA investigated the case thoroughly, and although "Fuenteovejuna" could be responsible for the accumulated problems that led workers to take over 12 factory gates and demand radical measures (including the firing of administrative officials), in fact there are clear and unavoidable individual, collective, and institutional responsibilities that led to the outburst at the collective.

A reorganization process that met with resistance among a weak union leadership, low productivity levels, a company committee that did not work and consequently a lack of real worker participation, 466 machines in poor working order out of a total of 842, a lack of foreign exchange for raw materials and spare parts, 115 workers per day absent from the job, the pirating of technicians, . . . in sum, the ENAVES case is a model to be analyzed by workers throughout the country.

Run-down machinery that hinders production, deficient enforcement of work quotas, errors in the payment of wages, a low level of political-ideological work, and erroneous ideas among union leadership, among other factors, recently prompted a group of workers to take over the complex.

The take-over of 12 factory gates by the women was declared illegal by the Labor Ministry, and the 57 workers were fired. All have been relocated to textile, leather and shoe factories.

ENAVES produces clothing for national consumption, including school uniforms and fatigues for combat troops. It also makes "Jean Pierre" jeans for export. This year, production declined notably because of the lack of raw materials and other causes which we will explain in this article.

The enterprise, considered a priority within the textile sector, has been plagued with periodic work stoppages by the employees, culminating in the take-over on Friday 11 April. The women prevented everyone from entering, even administrative personnel.

Comrade Ruth Herrera, director of the complex, has been carrying out a reorganization of production and has been curtailing some improper practices left over from the previous administration. Leana Machado, former manager of ENAVES, is serving a 7-year term for fraud and embezzlement at the enterprise.

Herrera, who has been at the factory for 6 months, outlined its situation. She pointed out that its production levels had been extremely low. When she took over, she asked for an audit, which the Industry Ministry was unable to do because in 1985 the auditing ceam was just reviewing the accounting

controls for the previous 3 years, not for 1985. At present, the accounts are expected to be up to date by 7 May.

Company Committee Doesn't Work

The Company Committee, a forum in which ENAVES workers can participate, has not worked. The tense relations between management and the union, and the weak and divided union leadership, have been the principal obstacles.

The workers have exerted pressure on the management in various ways. A week after Comrade Ruth Herrera took over, the workers carried out a mobilization that resulted in an assembly outside the management offices.

The director suspended meetings during work hours so that production would not be hampered; this measure was misinterpreted by employees as an act of repression. She reached an agreement with the union in this regard for 20 hours a month, as opposed to the average of 140 hours that had been spent.

In the files, BARRICADA found numerous copies of the director's communications with the union, in which various agreements were set forth. They included the regulation of transfers, the revision of work quotas, and mechanisms to improve labor discipline.

Who Is Taking Advantage of the Situation?

The workers have a variety of opinions. Some say that the problems have arisen because management does not comply with the agreements. Others add that they are rooted in the mistaken policy of supporting firings for theft. Several employees assert that the best thing is to join together, because it is the extreme leftwing union factions that come out on top and benefit from the disunity of the workers.

The union that represents the enterprise's employees is an affiliate of the Sandinist Central Organization of Workers (CST), but some leaders are followers of the Central Organization of Trade Union Action and Unity (CAUS).

Key Problem: Machinery

Of 842 machines, 466 are broken down, and often after repairs they last only a couple of hours, because the mechanics must modify old parts.

The Ministry of Industry needs $2.5 million to buy spare parts for the textile sector. Agustin Vega, director of the textile sector, confirmed the statements by the ENAVES director, explaining that foreign exchange has not been allocated to that enterprise for the repair of the machinery.

Only $11,500 was invested in zippers, fasteners, dyes, and other components, as well as a small quantity of spare parts. The dollars were purchased at the exchange office, which raises costs, according to Vega.

In addition, the enterprise cannot prevent its best mechanics from being "pirated." ENAVES has formed a training school at which several young men are

learning the trade from the old masters, but if the "pirating" continues, how can the machinery situation be stabilized?

The run-down machines also affect the workers' take-home pay. Working an 8-hour shift, an employee can earn an extra percentage for exceeding her work quota. But if the machines are broken down, the employees cannot work and they earn only their base pay; or, in the best of cases, they are transferred to another operation.

The same thing happens when the broken-down machines operate only 3 or 4 hours a day. The employees cannot exceed their quotas when that happens, so they are demanding that the machinery be repaired.

Waiting Time

The employees wonder what is the point of showing up at the factory and putting in their hours if they do not produce. Sonia Caldera asserted that the machine she operates "has been picking up the fabric and breaking the thread for the past 60 days, and that slows down the work." We observed several idle workers in the plants. They were on what is known as "waiting time," which can range from a half-hour to several weeks, and is due to the lack of material to work with or to broken-down machines.

In this regard, the management of the enterprise explained that the normalization of work requires many resources, from spare parts to fabric and accessories. For example, to regularize production in just one of the three plants in the complex, ENAVES had to be allocated all the fabric that had been earmarked for the manufacture of clothing in the small and medium-sized shops in the small-scale industry.

In addition, plant personnel were sent on vacation, while the workers who cut out shirt pieces worked overtime to accumulate enough material to stabilize production.

Absenteeism and Transfers

Almost 12 percent of the machine operators have seen their income fall because they cannot exceed their quotas when they are transferred from one occupation to another of greater or lesser complexity. They are less skilled at the new job than they were at the old one, since they are not familiar with it, so they work slowly and sometimes do not even manage to complete the minimum assignment.

Transfers increase as a result of absenteeism, because if one worker is missing another must do the job. The operation is a chain, and if one aspect falls behind, the others are also affected, and waiting time increases.

Absenteeism also hinders production. An average of 115 workers miss work each day, which is equivalent to 13 percent of the 900 employees at the factory.

Sometimes there is machinery in good condition that has no one to operate it to make school uniforms and combat fatigues.

"Absenteeism is a problem that cannot be solved by mere administrative measures," says the director, acknowledging the failure to engage in political-ideological work among the employees before applying administrative measures.

Errors in Payroll

In addition to the run-down machinery, the lack of raw materials and absenteeism--the latter caused by the workers themselves--affect employees' income, and mistakes in paychecks have led to discontent among the workers.

ENAVES hired a computer company, which is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Industry, to do the payroll using a new system. A number of errors were made in that payroll.

Some workers received only part of their pay, and although they were reimbursed in the ensuing weeks, they were unhappy. The workers are demanding that the situation be brought back to normal.

Comrade Ruth Herrera responded to this complaint by saying that the payment system is improving, and that in recent weeks the errors have been kept to a minimum.

Standardization: A Task in Its Infancy

Most of the quotas can easily be exceeded. Many machine operators fulfill more than 200 percent of the quota. There are other quotas, however, that are very "tight." In assembling collar bases, for example, Rosario Munoz, who has 2 years of experience in this operation, can exceed the quota by 20 percent if she works a full 8 hours.

Meanwhile, Isabel Aleman can easily achieve 267 percent of the collar-assembly operation. Weekly paychecks amount to 9,000 cordobas for the first job, and 25,000 cordobas for the second.

The workers are calling for the revision of the quotas that are very tight, while the machine operators who do manage to exceed the quotas attribute it to personal effort and their skill in operating the machine. The Labor Ministry, however, feels that the quotas are very low in general, but it has done nothing about them.

The workers complain about the constant changes in methods of manufacturing clothing. The company makes these changes to lower costs, but the workers contend that they suffer because they have to adapt to new styles of working and acquire skills in operating machinery that they already know how to run easily, and this prevents them from exceeding the quotas.

One worker who attaches pockets filed a complaint because she used to be given the pieces already ironed, which made her work easier. The same is true, for example, of the workers who assemble collar bases, who under the new system

must smoothe out the fabric with their fingernails so that the piece will not be wrinkled, explained an operator.

Damaso Vargas' View

In view of this complicated situation, we consulted Damaso Vargas, secretary of the CST for Region III. He stated that the workers are correct in some of their claims, although he acknowledged that they did not go about filing their grievances the right way.

The CST demanded that the 57 operators be reinstated, but the Labor Ministry objected. "The state was forced to take drastic action, and we will assume our responsibility," said Damaso. "In addition, the CST accepts its share of the blame for not having led the ENAVES workers properly, but the company should improve its communications with the employees. Often it proceeds in ways that do not strengthen the ties of unity," he said.

He added that the statements made to the media by the administrative director recently, concerning alleged incidents of theft and measures taken to detect them, helped provoke the partial work stoppage on 11 April.

Bureaucrats Punished?

Damaso indicated that the Labor Ministry warned the workers that it would not allow work stoppages, "but we asked the ministry what it would do about the bureaucracy of its officials."

He added that he mentioned the above because there are problems not only at ENAVES, but in several enterprises in the region, and they must be stopped. "A measure to combat negligence is necessary," he said, because the workers are tired of waiting for their problems to be solved.

The chief of the CST in the region asserted that the organization will improve its service to workers in the textile sector, but that all the forces involved must cooperate to consolidate the workers' efforts in each enterprise in the region.

8926
CSO: 3248/402

PREPARATIONS BEGIN FOR JUNE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

Lima EL NACIONAL in Spanish 4 May 86 p 2

[Text] Luis Ayala, secretary general of the Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, is in Lima meeting with Senator Armando Villanueva del Campo, secretary general of the Aprista Party, to coordinate on the 17th Congress of the Socialist International scheduled for 20-23 June in Lima. This meeting is especially meaningful for Lima in that it is the first to be held in a Third World country. Previous congresses were held in Europe.

Selection of Peru for this event is a recognition of the international position assumed by President Alan Garcia, who is also head of the Peruvian Aprista Party, consultative organization of the Socialist International, said Luis Ayala.

The main meeting of the congress will consider such priority topics as peace and disarmament, the world economic crisis and consolidation of democracy. It is an honor for Peru to have been selected as the site for this event, an honor that is extendable to the social democratic movement in all of Latin America.

Carlos Lopez Cano, head of the organizing committee of the world meeting of the Socialist International, indicated that Peru will reiterate its position on payment of its foreign debt.

He added that the committee also includes Senator Enrique Melgar, Deputy Carlos Roca Caceres, Eugenia Ruiz, Hugo Otero and Jose Luis Perez Sanchez Cerro.

Lopez Cano noted that at the plenary session of the congress, APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] will present two specific positions being worked on by Deputy Carlos Roca Caceres, who has been asked to get in contact with party ideology and political experts.

Such world figures as former West German chief of state Willy Brandt (current president of the Spocialist International), former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and new Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson will be in Lima for the congress.

/12913
CSO: 3248/587

COMPTON BUDGET OFFERS PROJECTS, NEW JOBS, TAX CHANGES

Tax Proposals

Castries THE VOICE in English 26 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister John Compton yesterday presented a record $232.6 million job creation budget to Parliament with income tax relief including the striking out of some 3,000 people at the bottom end of the scale who will cease paying income taxes altogether.

Compton described the budget as one for job creation but not a giveaway and highlighted a number of projects which the Government planned to undertake in the coming fiscal year to boost employment.

He said his government's intention was to provide for those who were in need rather than those who already had.

He noted that there was an air of expectancy in respect of Government policy on income tax and repeated his often-stated position that St. Lucians were already taxed to the limit and when the time was ripe some relief would be given.

He added: "With the signs of economic recovery in sight, the time is now ripe."

Compton said taxes on personal income yielded some $27 million annually, and was a direct contribution to the maintenance of the country's essential services. But he added that if income tax had to be removed altogether this $27 million must be found from other sources to maintain the essential services.

This he said would result in taxation on consumption which would be inequitable as it would place a disproportionate burden on the poorer sections of the population, who spent a high proportion of their basic income on essential items.

It would also increase their cost of living creating demands for higher wages to offset this, thus throwing the entire economy into an inflationary spiral from which the island had just come out.

He announced plans to simplify the income tax system by reducing the number of bands from 11 to five. He explained: "A person in the lowest band will pay five percent of his income and those in the upper grade will pay 50 percent of a certain portion."

Compton also announced an increase in the present tax allowance from $2,000 to $3,000 per person. It was also the intention to raise the threshold at which taxation began from $2,000 to $3,000 and to lower the rates at the upper end of the scale to permit those who had made an enormous contribution to the social and economic well being of the country to retain more of their income.

"This would mean, that a man with a wife and two children and whose earning is less than $6,000 will pay no income tax at all. A person who now pays $405 in income tax will have

that reduced to $75. When these measures are enacted, and I intend to introduce the measures very soon, 3,000 persons at the lower scale of the income tax ladder will pay no taxes at all," the Prime Minister said.

To compensate for the loss of revenue, he said, the Government would be adjusting consumption taxes on some luxury goods, without touching essential items.

Compton also said that some $6.6 million in income tax arrears was owed to the State and the Government planned to follow the example of St. Vincent by granting an amnesty by waiving payment of interest on all arrears if settlement was made by June 30.

He also announced his decision to abolish the withholding tax introduced in 1980 in so far as it related to taxes on dividends on profits on which income taxes had already been paid, but to retain this tax in respect to management fees.

Compton hailed the performances of the agriculture, tourism, manufacturing and constructions sectors during the past year, adding that there was now a mood of optimism, tempered with caution prevailing in St. Lucia.

He said the need for caution was highlighted in his 1985 budget address when he called on public servants to hold off demands for increases in pay. He noted that the cost of the administrative service had been more than doubled in the last five years, from $39 million in 1980-81 to $88 million during the past year.

He said that the Government had had to resort to borrowing to meet the increased cost of the public services. This, he said, was at the expense of "the things we must do," like building roads and schools. It was also at the expense of the unemployed.

Referring to demands for backpay by public servants, Compton said that St. Lucia needed industrial peace so that the island's fragile economy was not destroyed. He said that the Government was prepared to meet with the Unions at any time in order to provide them with the facts of the island's economic situation.

Project Plans

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 29 Mar 86 p 20

[Text] Prime Minister John Compton painted a promising picture of the employment prospects of St. Lucia in presenting his Government's 1986-87 fiscal budget to the House of Assembly, which he described as one of job creation rather than handouts to those already employed.

Mr. Compton outlined a number of projects which he said would generate some 2,000 new jobs to reduce St. Lucia's rate of unemployment which he estimated at between 18 and 20 percent, but said was still "no cause for comfort or complacency."

According to the Prime Minister, the Castries waterfront will be a hive of activity over the next two years and hundreds of St. Lucian tradesmen and construction workers will find employment on several projects there.

Detailing some of the public works and construction activity that will be in progress, Compton said that the budget provided an allocation of $10 million for the construction of an office complex in the Conway area. He said a group of local banks had agreed to provide a $6 million loan for this purpose while the remainder would be provided by an export credit loan from Britain.

Compton said the National Insurance Board which also intended to build in the same area had agreed to work together with the Government in the construction of the complex.

He added that contracts for both these buildings had been awarded to Kier International and total expenditure would be around $20 million, adding that the contracts would be signed next month, so that construction could begin in May.

Compton said that two developments had made the

proposed activity in the Conway area one of urgency. One was the expansion of Government activities resulting in the spread of offices all over the city and more than $1 million in rent annually. The other was the construction of the Pointe Seraphine tourist complex.

He said that in addition to Pointe Seraphine, there was the development of Vieux Ville Bay and the Trou Garnier area adjacent to Pointe Seraphine. This area, he added, would be used as a shopping area for goods associated with the tourist industry, but not of the rate of duty to warrant accommodation within the duty free area.

In addition, he said, there was work in the Coast Guard facility adjacent to the Castries Yacht Centre, to start later.

He detailed a number of other employment generating projects to be undertaken during the new financial year. These included the first phase of the West Coast road to Soufriere to start next month. Compton said this phase, from the Castries river bridge to La Croix Maingot, would be financed jointly with Hess to the tune of $6 million.

A $2.4 million feeder road programme would be undertaken using funds from USAID, the Caribbean Development Bank and local revenues. In fisheries, Compton said, the second phase of the Canadian-financed programme would start in April, involving the provision of facilities at all major fishing areas in the island.

Compton said these facilities would cost $3.3 million, while more modest projects would be undertaken in Dennery, Choiseul, Soufriere, Gros Islet, Laborie and Castries.

A $3.3 water programme would also be undertaken with CDB, British and local funding to bring water to several rural areas, while Canadian engineering consultants were already in St. Lucia to commence work on the design of the 600 million gallon capacity dam planned for the Roseau valley.

Optimism on Budget

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 29 Mar 86 p 20

[Text]

THE Government's 1986-87 fiscal budget presented to Parliament on Tuesday is bound to have a positive impact on future economic growth of this country over the next 12 months.

Mr. Compton described the budget as one designed to create employment, and in fact identified a number of programmes planned for the next year designed to stimulate job opportunities for which there continues to be crying demand.

On paper the Government's plans seem sound and positive. With an unemployment level of between 18 and 20 percent, as claimed by the Prime Minister there are still too many St. Lucians unemployed and any measure that is designed to create jobs is welcome at this time.

On the other hand, the Government plans to grant income tax relief at a time when there are clear signs of a continually improving economy will be commended by large numbers of St. Lucians who for so long have suffered under a particularly burdensome tax system.

Especially fortunate are the 2,000 at the bottom end of the tax roll who will receive total relief.

It is still too early to evaluate in dollars and cents terms the actual impact of the announced relief measures on individual salaries, but suffice it to say that all taxpayers should begin to enjoy a greater share of the sweat from their work.

The economy itself, while still not fully recovered, continues to improve, and this is reflected nearly every where. Of course, this does not mean that everyone in this country is totally happy and satisfied. There are still many who do not have enough to satisfy themselves and their families.

The budget also attempts to meet the basic needs of several rural communities in the provision of water and electricity, continuing a programme that has in recent years received great attention from the Government. This need to upgrade the standard of living of residents in the rural areas is vitally important in the efforts of this nation towards social justice for all.

This year promises to be an active one for St. Lucia if all the projects announced by the Prime Minister come on stream. Mr. Compton has set the country of optimism and expectation and St. Lucians are looking forward to the delivering of the promises of his budget.

/13104
CSO: 3298/441

COMPTON CRITICIZES PUBLIC SERVANTS REQUEST FOR PAY INCREASE

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 29 Mar 86 pp 2, 3, 17

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER John Compton has again criticised requests by public servants for salary increases and backpay as unconscionable demands which if granted, would bring grave consequences to the economy.

But Compton said that his government had not closed the door to dialogue with the public service unions and staff associations, saying that he was prepared to meet with them "at any time, alone or together with representatives of the I.L.O. (International Labour Organization), the Christian Council or any other appropriate organization" in order to provide the facts of the island's current economic situation.

Compton said that these unconscionable demands were being made by only a small group within the public services whose political motives were clear.

He added: "But let it be clearly understood that 1987 will not be a repeat of 1979. The public and the majority of the public services have seen through these transparent motives and have had enough of their manoeuvrings and will not encourage any action which will endanger the country."

He said that it was only last October that that Government had authorised a $6 million loan to pay out backpay, but "now there is cry for still more."

Compton then went on to give a breakdown of pay increases given to public servants in the last five years. He said there were substantial increases in 1979 which were followed by other hikes in 1980, 1982 and 1984. In the last five years between 1980 81 and 1985/86 the cost of the public service in wages and salaries had more than doubled from $39 million to $88 million at a time when "countries we rely on for aid are cutting back." Compton noted.

He pointed out that the money to pay those increases was obtained at the expense of the poor to give people who were already provided for.

Compton also produced figures on the country's debt and debt repayments. He said that in 1980 the Labour Government borrowed $9 million from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and it was only in February this year that the last installment of $480,000 was paid off. Between 1982 and 1985 the total public debt rose from $86.05 million to $97.14 million which was about the exact increase awarded under the last wage negotiations.

"To pay these debts the country must find during this year $15.56 million in the interest of repayments with interest alone amounting to $10 million," added the Prime Minister.

"Let us look at what $10 million can do for the country. It can build about 15 miles of good roads, 25 schools for 7,500 children or it can provide water supply to every settlement in St. Lucia. It can put 1,500 men at work for the entire year. Yet this money is spent but it does none of these things. It goes to pay interest to the banks. All of us must pay," Compton lamented.

The Prime Minister added that in November 1984 the Government's Negotiating Team had recommended increases totalling 20 per cent for monthly paid workers and 32.5 per cent for daily paid

workers which were approved by Cabinet and took effect on December 1 of that same year.

BONANZA

He added that Cabinet went even further by granting an exgratia payment of up to a maximum of $500 to daily paid workers who did not benefit from the "bonds bonanza." The cost of these payments was $654,000 and the Ministry of Finance had been directed to make the payments as soon as possible, the Prime Minister said.

But with respect to the monthly paid workers, he added, he had given all the facts relating to the financial position of government to the Unions and Associations. He said that he had also informed them that further demands "in the present circumstances are completely unconscionable and will be an act of gravest irresponsibility for this, or indeed, any Government to yield to such demand."

Compton continued: "I believe that the public should know that the public services of St. Lucia are about the best paid in the entire OECS, and better paid than all other public services in the CARICOM region with the exception of the Bahamas, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago. Again the public should know that inflation has fallen from 15 per cent in 1982 to 1.5 per cent in 1985 and wage and salary increases enjoyed in 1983 are far in excess and more than compensate for the rate of inflation.

"It is only in the Government services that one hears the cry for backpay practically every year. Why should one set of workers be treated very differently to the others when we all work in the same country and pay our taxes to the same government?" the Prime Minister asked.

He called on St. Lucians to take heed of what was happening around. "One by one countries are collapsing. We whom the calypsonian has reminded that all we have "is sea water and sand" must therefore take heed lest the calypsonian also sing for us 'Captain the ship is sinking.' These calypsoes will not apply to us because we have more than just 'sea, water and sand.' We have the most valuable ingredient of development. We have good leadership and political stability and this gives our people the inward strength and determination to push our country ever onward to a greater tomorrow," Compton stressed.

Noting that some of the public service unions had taken their case to the ILO and the St. Lucia Christian Council, Compton said: "Let it be. But let ILO know that if they want to call the tune, they must pay the piper. Let me see where Christian charity lies, if bread is to be taken from the have nots and given to the haves."

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CSO: 3298/441

THRONE SPEECH POINTS TO BRIGHT PROSPECTS IN ECONOMY

Castries THE VOICE in English 26 Mar 86 p 14

[Text] GOVERNOR GENERAL Sir Allen Lewis yesterday urged St. Lucians towards continuing hard work saying that the future, though challenging, was bright in its prospects and filled with opportunity.

Sir Allen was delivering the traditional Speech from the Throne at the opening of a new session of the local Parliament.

In a review of St. Lucia in the past year he said that Parliamentarians could draw some measure of satisfaction with the island's progress.

"Everywhere, in every aspect of life, the springtime of hope is again visible," he said.

Sir Allen said the Government was firmly of the view that a stable political and economic environment was an absolute pre-requisite of economic and social advancement and that such an environment could be created and maintained by enhanced economic activity.

To this end, he said, the prime concern of the Government would continue to be the advancement, rehabilitation and revitalisation of the economy. Any impediments to this effort must therefore be removed, he said.

Sir Allen said that with the passage of the Caribbean Basin Initiative, opportunities had been created which St. Lucians should gear themselves to grasp. In this regard, he said, the Government would continue to play an active and stimulating role. Existing regulatory procedures would be harmonised and refined to make them more responsive to the island's developmental thrust while the Civil Service, whose functions were to assist in the formulation and execution of Government policies must be reoriented in their training, so that they may have a better understanding of the environment in which they worked, and the need to expedite action which affected economic development, so that all would share in the benefits obtained therefrom.

He said existing incentive legislation would be revised, if necessary, so as to make St. Lucia an attractive place for investment of both local and foreign capital.

In particular, he said, the Hotel Aids Ordinance would be revised to offer the tourist industry incentives on par with those being offered to the manufacturing sector.

He referred to the local drug situation. Said Sir Allen: "This (the drug) traffic strikes at the very heart of our society, as it is aimed primarily at our youth. Many Governments over the world have taken severe measures to deal with this menace. My Government will strengthen existing legislation in this regard in an attempt to stamp out this trade. Mandatory internment will be provided for the offer of narcotics substances to minors, while the properties of those merchants of destruction will be confiscated if such ill-gotten gains are traceable to trafficking in drugs."

Sir Allen said the Government would cooperate with all regional and international organisations to ensure that no haven or sanctuary was provided for the participants in this illegal trade.

He said St. Lucia had come a long way since independence, adding that although the road had been rugged, St. Lucians had performed with credit and had earned for themselves, the respect and admiration of other countries, many of which had assisted and guided St. Lucia along its way.

He added: "The way ahead continues to be rough, but the path has been cleared and our goal of economic development and advancement is within our reach. To get there demands discipline, restraint and perseverance. It demands sympathy and concern for the less fortunate of our society. It demands continuing hard work by all. The future though challenging is bright in its prospects, the path, though daunting is filled with opportunity."

He noted that St. Lucia had been faced with challenges in the past, and St. Lucians had risen to the occasion and emerged from these challenges a more self-reliant people.

/13104
CSO: 3298/441

BANK REPORT REVIEWS ECONOMIC INDEXES FOR 1985

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 29 Mar 86 p 3

[Text] Preliminary production data indicates that the rate of economic growth in St. Lucia during the early months of 1985 has slowed largely as a result of declines in the production of merchandise exports other than bananas, according to the East Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB).

Production of bananas, however, continued to expand very sharply and this was reflected in a considerable increase in export volumes. Export volumes of bananas expanded by 24% to 56.749 tons and unit price by as much as 15%. Tourism, the other major sector earning foreign exchange, expanded very sharply perhaps by as much as 10% the ECCB says in an Economic and Financial review.

Such output growth as occurred in 1985 was associated with a favourable performance in respect of domestic prices. The rate of inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index indicated that consumer prices at the end of September 1985 had increased by a mere 1% over the level at September in the previous year, the Bank said adding this rate of increase was very similar to that of the comparable period in 1984.

"This rise in the cost of living in 1985 resulted largely from increases of 1.6%, 8.8% and 2.2% in the prices of beverages and tobacco, clothing and footwear, and furniture and household equipment respectively," the report said.

Apart from estimates of tourist receipts, data relating to invisible transactions in the balance of payments was not yet available. But the Bank said the very preliminary information on trade and on tourism indicated that the current deficit on the balance of payments had narrowed in 1985 as compared with 1984. The trade deficit decreased from $126.73m in the first nine months of 1984 to about $105.61m in the same period in 1985. This improvement in the trade account resulted more from a reduction in merchandise imports than from an increase in the value of exports.

As already indicated, performance in the tourist sector was quite commendable. During the first nine months of 1985, tourist arrivals increased by about 8%, following an increase of some 14% in the comparable period of 1984. In effect, therefore the 1985 performance represented a remarkable growth of some 25% over the comparable period in 1983. Stay over visitors, the category which contributed more substantially to foreign exchange earnings, amounted to some 8% more than during the same period in 1984.

The report said that during the first nine months of 1985 two significant developments emerged. The first was an increase in deposits of 17.24% or $46.59m. The second was a depressed demand for credit which grew by only 4.06% as compared with 10.7% in 1984. As a result, there was a sharp growth in liquid assets which increased to levels of $64.1m. This contrasted sharply with

light liquidity in St Lucia in 1982 but which eased considerably in 1983 and continued to improve in 1984.

The increase in liquid assets in the review period was sizeable, amounting to $28.78m. Of this amount, $8.07m represented an increase in foreign assets. The trend in the reserve position of the commercial banks with the Central Bank was similar. Central Bank assets (deposits and currency) increased by $11.65m to $24.18m. The other significant liquid asset development was an increase in E.C. dollar balances held with other banks in the ECCB area which rose by $7.58m to $8.79m, the report said adding that this general improvement in the liquidity position of the commercial banks was evidenced in an increase in the liquid assets ratio from one of 13.3% at the end of September 1983 to one of 20.5% at the end of September 1984. The ratio in 1985 fell slightly in proportionate terms to 19.9%.

The growth in deposits was significantly higher than in the last two years. Of the increase of $46.52m or 17.24% in the first nine months, private sector deposits expanded by $34.79m or 16.5%. The latter growth resulted mainly from higher placements by private individuals whose deposits with commercial banks rose by 19% in the first nine months of 1985 to $187.55m. This was much faster than increases of 10% in 1984 and 4% in 1983. Although business firms increased their deposit holdings by a much smaller increment, one of 5% to a total of $32.24m, this performance was a considerable improvement over that in the same period in 1984 when their deposits were reduced by 10% to a level of $29.56m.

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CSO: 3298/431

OPPOSITION CONTINUES CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES

SLP on Labor Issues

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 5 Apr 86 p 1

[Text] THE St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP) is apparently unimpressed with Prime Minister John Compton's explanation why the country cannot meet new demands by public servants for more pay.

Neither is the SLP impressed with Compton's decision not to adjust local fuel prices at a time when world prices are falling.

The party yesterday issued public statements on both those issues. One called on the Government "to honour and implement all aspects of the collective agreement" with trade unions and public service associations.

It said: "It is the SLP's view that the Government is legally and morally bound to any and all agreements with any body or group of parties entered into with good faith, and any step to dishonour such agreements would constitute a breach of faith, and a blatant dishonesty which the SLP will not allow to go unchallenged."

It said it was wrong for the Government to rescind, revoke, reduce, amend or alter the agreement made regarding backpay and the date of the implementation without seeking the agreement of the other parties.

Public service unions have accused the Government of unilaterally changing the date on which their last collective agreement was to become effective.

The SLP said its opposition to the Government's refusal to pay the workers came especially against the background of the claim by the Prime Minister that the economy "is again buoyant and that there was a consecutive sustenance of a five percent growth rate over the past two years."

It said the unions were justified in pressing for what was owed them in the light of "significant salary increases of over 50 percent" recently awarded to Members of Parliament.

The Government is arguing that meeting the new demands at this time of the unions would be an act of irresponsibility on the part of this or any other Government. Compton said the Government would have to resort to borrowing to settle with the workers which would disrupt the improving economy.

The SLP statement called on the Government to pay the workers from the date originally agreed to between the unions and the Government's negotiating team.

The opposition party adopted a similarly hard line in reacting to the Government's decision not to lower fuel prices as yet.

Hecklers at SLP Rally

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 12 Apr 86 p 2

[Text]

THE St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP) returned to the Castries Market Steps this week with a warning from leader Julian Hunte that the Party would not be frightened away by hecklers.

Hunte took some time before ending his attack on the 1986/87 budget to address the warning to a small noisy group of his audience.

He said that he planned to "fight fire with fire" this election and that he would not tolerate trouble makers.

Earlier, Opposition leader, Neville Cenac, abruptly stopped his speech to complain of crowd disturbance and called on police to control the handful of hecklers.

Cenac's address was directed against what he called unfair reporting by the CRUSADER newspaper, in particular, of his activities in the House of Assembly but it was Hunte who sharply criticised government policy calling Prime Minister, John Compton and his Ministers "abject failures."

"The record is that since the UWP has been in office we have lost over 2,000 jobs in the industrial sector. Mayfair has closed...all the equipment that was at Mayfair has now left our shores. Marstan Mills closed. The so-called free zone at Vieux Fort is not working because merchants claim that they find difficulty in getting Customs officers to clear the goods...," Hunte told the meeting.

The Party Leader referred to Club Mediterranean Hotel in Vieux Fort as "a law unto itself" saying that the only things that the Prime Minister had not given it was the sea and sand around the Hotel.

Said Hunte: "Only 10 per cent of the people working at Club Med. are St. Lucians and they are paying foreign workers about five times as much as they are paying the St. Lucians. This is what is happening right here under your nose."

He added that there were over 200 people from Martinique and Guadeloupe working at the Hotel which meant that St. Lucians who had been trained by the former Halcyon Days Hotel over the last 10 years now had to seek alternative employment. "Where in the world can you go and get this kind of treatment except in St. Lucia?" Hunte asked.

"Club Med. it is such a law unto itself," Hunte said, "that it will not purchase fruit and vegetables from local people. They do not have any guaranteed market here...as far as they are concerned whatever they need they will get it from outside."

Hunte told the meeting that talk of the Sulphur Springs generating geothermal energy by 1988 was nothing but an election ploy.

He said: "There is no indication as yet that this energy is available in commercial quantities. This business of 1988 is an election ploy because there is nothing to indicate that there is geothermal energy at the Sulphur Springs in sufficient quantities until these people have completed drilling operations. So what they are going to do is to employ about 200 people down there and make it appear that there is some big thing taking place..."

The Party Leader also had some advice for the Prime Minister on the preparation and purpose of a budget: "The purpose of a budget is for government to develop a strategy to achieve goals in line with government policy and a budget in St. Lucia at this point in time should have concentrated on the question of meaningful economic growth in all the sectors, the unemployment question which is currently running at 30 per cent on average, but 40 per cent among the young people...and the diversification of the economy."

According to Hunte: "The government of St. Lucia does not have the political will that is required to deal with matters which are of a fundamental nature to the recovery of the country economically and socially. And it is about time, and I hope that when that time comes you will do what is necessary to have the St. Lucia Labour Party replace the John Compton administration."

/13104
CSO: 3298/441

PAPER CREDITS UWP WITH BETTERMENT OF NATION'S ECONOMY

Casteries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 5 Apr 86 p 2

[Editorial]

WHEN the United Workers Party launched its campaign for a return to the seat of power four years ago, it did so on the basis that it was capable of restoring the St. Lucia economy that had taken a beating from the disastrous three years of rule by the St. Lucia Labour Party, at a time of a serious international recession.

Before the 1982 elections we expressed the view, in an editorial, that the restoration of the principal sectors of the economy and the creation of jobs for St. Lucians should be the first priorities of the new government, and we advised St. Lucians that the task of rebuilding their country would be no picnic.

Our words then were: "No country makes up for three years of decline merely by electing a new government or by having an experienced leader whose abilities have been put through the mill."

In the last four years of UWP rule, we have watched the economic fortunes of this country slowly improving. We have seen the possibilities and the opportunities increasing, again slowly. And we have watched the main pillars of the economy surging ahead.

Above all, there has been every indication that the Government has so far done more than a reasonable job in managing the country's economy. It's performance has not been 100 percent, but it has shown very clearly that it is capable of fulfilling its 1982 boast of turning the economy around.

Under the SLP we registered negative economic growth, now we are talking of a 5.8 percent growth in 1985. There was a time when local critics argued that such figures meant nothing if they were not reflected in the pockets of the ordinary man and woman. But in the world of international finance such figures matter, representing as they do, a yardstick by which to measure the economic performance of a country.

Elsewhere, we have seen the Government pay off a huge pile of debts, including settlement in full of nine million dollars that was owed to the IMF. The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank reports that during the first nine months of 1985 there was a sharp increase in the liquidity position of local commercial banks in contrast to the situation in 1982, while bank deposits also rose significantly.

Put these factors alongside the increasing confidence investors continue to show in St. Lucia and the improved spending power of St. Lucians at this time, and it cannot be denied that our position today is far better than it has ever been since the start of the present decade.

But as we said last week, this does not mean that all is well. It does not mean that

poverty has been wiped out, that all our people are at work. We still have a growing budget deficit to keep under control and we need to increase our productivity especially of the things we make for export, to boost our foreign exchange earnings and cut our trade deficit.

St. Lucia is today economically active, notwithstanding its problems, and if the Government is not directly responsible, as some would argue, for bringing this about, then the least we can do is to acknowledge the fact that under its guidance the fortunes of our country have become much better and are now more promising.

Either way, Mr. Compton and his team must be given some of the credit for the improved state of things in the country today, and must be considered to have, at least for the time being, effected the economic turnaround that they promised us four years ago, or have set the course to achieve this goal.

/13104
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ATTORNEY GENERAL ALLUDES TO 'CROOKED' CUSTOMS OFFICERS

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 5 Apr 86 p 4

[Excerpt] Attorney General Mr. Lennard Riviere (UWP-Soufriere) has said that there were certain "crooked Customs officers" in league with certain merchants to deprive the Treasury of duties on imported goods.

Speaking during the budget debate, Mr. Riviere said he did not think all was being done to make those who owed taxes pay up. He had no doubt that there were many businessmen who were not paying their fair share of income tax.

"They are not doing it unilaterally or by themselves. That's not possible. It has to be done in collaboration with the very people who are entrusted with collecting taxes on behalf of the country. We just have to make sure that the machinery which is put in place is effective and if it is not effective, then devise ways and means to make it effective," he told the House adding:

"The same thing happened at the Customs. We all know that there are some crooked customs officers in cahoots with certain forces here to deprive this country of import duties for the sake of getting a few T-shirts or TV sets or a ham, and it is these very same people who will be the first to go on the streets and demonstrate to get more backpay."

/13104
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CARIBBEAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT ASSESSED, HAILED

Castries CRUSADER in English 19 Apr 86 p 7

[Text] Last week Dominican Opposition Parliamentarian Rosie Douglas during a brief visit to St. Lucia, renewed a previous call for "ONE CARIBBEAN".

Mr. Douglas who was at the time addressing a mass public meeting on the Castries Market Steps, noted that the need for a unified Caribbean was crucial to the economic development of the people of the region. He cited the fact that the deteriorating economic situation in the region demanded such a unification. The Dominican Parliamentarian noted that trade within the Caricom had reduced considerably over the last five years. "Exports to the United States since the C.B.I. had also reduced to 25 percent", said Mr. Douglas.

Following Mr. Douglas' contribution, Leader of the Progressive Labour Party George Odlum announced that a group of Caribbean progressives forming the nucleus of the Caribbean National Movement (C.N.M.) had issued the call for "ONE CARIBBEAN NATION".

A press release issued by the group after a Barbados meeting last week noted that, "The Caribbean National Movement is committed to working towards the achievement of the realisation of one Caribbean Nation, encompassing all the territories of the Caribbean including the English, Dutch, French and Spanish speaking areas".

This column salutes this move as a progressive one, which could only redound to the benefit of the Caribbean people.

The political and economic situation as it exists today in the Caribbean is frightening and overwhelming, sustained by an acute division. Caribbean leaders are unable to pull their economic resources together in the interest of the broad-masses of the people. While on the political front, ideology is the bone of contention.

During the last couple of years almost every Caribbean country has adopted its own protectionist trading measures. These measures have resulted in increased tension in Caricom. Speaking at the sixth Conference of Heads of Government at Sam Lord's Castle Barbados in July 1985. Prime Minister Bernard St. John of Barbados highlighted the explosive trade situation within Caricom when he said, "This meeting comes exactly on the Twelth Anniversary of the Signing of the Treaty of Chaguaramas; it also comes at a time when the economic problems beseting the region are reaching the point of genuine crisis. We must be under no illusions. We are in grave danger. The spectre before us in the region is that of the collapse of the economic foundations of the integration movement...After the trauma of our failed Federation we have all recognised that trade is and must be the foundation of Caricom...Yet it is precisely in this

area that Caricom continues to be plagued by its most vexing problems... "No money, no trade" would just about describe one of the major problems we face today in Caricom". Each speaker at that conference spoke of the trading problems existing within Caricom.

The collapse of the West Indies Federation and now the apparent collapse of trade within Caricom have awakened Caribbean progressives to the fact that some mechanism must be found to unify the Caribbean people.

It is clear that it is not in the geo-political interest of U.S. Imperialism to bring unity to Caribbean people. The very system of capitalism breeds division and disunity. The concept of capitalism is that some must have more than others, so that they will be able to make handouts to others. It is this system which causes man to exploit his fellowmen in order to acquire wealth. So while some are starving, dying and wallowing in misery and abject poverty, a few others are living exhorbitant life styles.

Walter Rodney in his book, "How Europe Underdeveloped Africa", states, "In a way underdevelopment is a paradox. Many parts of the world that are naturally rich are actually poor and parts that are not so well off in wealth of soil and sub-soil are enjoying the highest standards of living".

The capitalists usually try to explain this paradox by making it appear that this is a "God-given" situation. Consequently they take the land, the oil, the minerals and they give us the Bible. Then they use the Bible to justify their exploitation, and like idiots we allow ourselves to be exploited, hoping that Jesus Christ will one day give us a place in the NEW JERUSALEM."

/13104
CSO: 3298/441

The United States, the world's biggest capitalist power ensures that the resources of these islands are kept in private hands. Although the flags of colonialism are no more on our shores, foreign ownership of our resources remains a dominant feature, sucking the blood of our people.

Our attainment of Independence six years ago is therefore meaningless, until we can control our Banks, our Industries, our Insurance companies, our Newspapers, the means of transportation and the land.

The Invasion of tiny Grenada by the World's once richest nation was precisely to ensure that the people of Grenada do not control their means of production. The level of economic independence which was beginning to manifest itself in Grenada under Bishop was too much for a developing Caribbean nation. It had to be destroyed for fear that others would follow. Besides Bishop's firm position that the Caribbean be declared a "Zone of Peace was too much for the cowboy in the White House to stomach. He had to put an end, this he attempted in October 1983. John Compton, Eugenia Charles and Edward Seaga are all stooges of U.S. Imperialism. They are the ones who compromised the sovereignty of this region. They are the ones who have bought us, not integration but disintegration. They are the ones who have earned us increased unemployment, massive lay-offs, misery, poverty and hardship in the region. They are the ones who have handed us, bound hands and feet, in the lap of U.S. Imperialism. It is they who are hindering the ultimate unification of the people of the region.

The call for ONE CARIBBEAN is not for stooges, but Nationalists.

Long Live the CARIBBEAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT!

TEXT OF ROBINSON SPEECH ON NAR ECONOMIC, OTHER PROGRAMS

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 4 May 86 pp 13, 36

[Text] A.N.R. Robinson, political leader of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), has said that personal income tax allowance must be increased substanially to about $12,000 in view of current inflation in the economy, and to serve as an incentive to productivity.

Robinson made the suggestion on Wednesday as he outlined the NAR's programme of economic recovery and reconstruction for the country at the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce luncheon.

Robinson gave a perceptive analysis of the current economic situation facing Trinidad and Tobago and in his wide-ranging address presented programmes for both economic and political reform.

Standing Ovation

His speech, presented in simple but clear-cut terms, was interspered with loud cheering from the capacity crowd attending the luncheon and concluded with a standing ovation.

Here is the text of his speech:

Once again, I must through you, Mr. President, thank the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce, firstly for your kind hospitality and, secondly, for the privilege of addressing you. I am especially grateful to you for the presence of my wife, who I feel sure, would like to be associated with this acknowledgment. In these days, however, of the changing legislative relationship between husband and wife, I must be careful to add, for my own protection, that she must not necessarily be associated with the other sentiments I may henceforth express.

Since I had the honour of speaking to you some months ago - last July, to be exact - on the politics of transformation, my own position in particular and opposition politics in general have been transformerd. Out of several political parties one has now emerged with one platform, one symbol and one political leader.

This transformation has been long in the making and now that it has occurred, those who genuinely have the nation's welfare at heart must surely welcome this significant step towards the strengthening of our democracy and the promotion of the unity and stability of our nation.

Today, therefore, I speak to you from a platform of democracy, of national unity and of stability. It is the platform of the party which I have the honour to lead and I am confident that this platform will soon be the foundation of national policy.

Responsibility and Accountability

From our two and a half decades of experience as an independent nation, we have now learnt - you may add the hard way - that the proper functioning of the democratic system demands firstly assignment and acceptance of responsibilty. We cannot be all responsible for everything at the same time and expect the system to function. Consequently we allocate responsibilities in our public business, indeed as we do in our private affairs.

The principle of responsbiblity is so essential and fundamental that we seek to inculcate it even in our childrn at home and at school.

Responsibility

At the level of the Cabinet, Ministers are allocated their several portfolios. Under the Westminster system on which we are patterned, the principle of ministerial responsibility fixes a Minister with responsibility on matters of public business within his portfolio. So we have an Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs; a Minister of Local Government and Community Development; a Minister of Health; a Minister of Finance and Development and so on.

For their various subjects assigned to them by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister and in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, all of these Ministers are responsible. However, experience has also shown that responsibility can only be meaningful if there is also accountability. That is to say, a person who has responsibilites must also be made to answer for the manner in which he or she discharges those responsibilities.

Failure to answer satisfactorily in matters of sufficient importance or failure to observe minimum standards of conduct in public life should result in the vacation of office if the Westminster system is to function effectively.

Take, for example, the establishment of an Integrity Commission. Section 138 (1) Chapter 10 of the Constitution is clear and precise.

"There shall be an Integrity Commission . . ."

Section 138(2) provides

"The Commission shall be charged with the duty of:

"(a) receiving from time to time declarations in writing of the assets, liabilities and incomes of members of the House of Representatives, Ministers of Government, Parliamentary Secretaries, Permanent Secretaries and Chief Technical Officers."

Very Clear

The provisions relating to the Commission are very clear and very simple ones and it certianly should not take longer than three weeks for any competent draughtsman to produce a suitable draft for consideration by the Cabinet.

Yet this simple provision has been in our Constitution for ten years, not upheld nor respected, not implemented, while the country is rocked by corruption scandals.

For our system of government to function effectively, the question must be asked: Who is responsible? The answer is: The whole crew, of course. However, it is the captain who must accept the prime responsibility.

We are not dealing here with a trivial matter. It is one of such importance that the constitutional provisions are entrenched. So entrenched are they that to remove them you will require a three-fourths majority in the House of Representatives and a two-thirds majority in the Senate.

Every Minister of Government including the Prime Minister takes the following oath of office at the commencement of his term:

". . . I will bear true faith and allegiance to Trinidad and Tobago and to the best of my ability preseve and defend the Constitution and the law . . ."

The oath of office, therefore, sets out the fundamental obligation of a Prime Minister and his Cabinet to defend the Consititution.

In a democratic system of government, if a government seeks amendments to the Constitution but cannot obtain the necessary majority in Parliament, it has a duty to return to the electorate for the necessary majority. It cannot be permitted to flout the laws and tear up the Constitution which it had sworn to defend.

For the democratic system to function in any meaningful fashion, or with any degree of integrity or efficiency, the national community must demand that those who violate their oath of office and disrespect the Constitution should be made peacefully to vacate their offices.

I need only give this simple example of integrity legislation to show how, in the absence of an alert population, democratic systems and constitutional government can be subverted. There is a common law offence called "breach of statutory duty." Perhaps it should now be extended and made a statutory offence.

Serious

Take one other recent example - that of the famous Report of the Commission on Drugs. An unidentified person or persons thought the revelations in the report were sufficiently serious to warrant the appointment of special counsel to deal with the report. But we do not know who took that decision. We are told the "Government" but not the Attorney General who is an essential part of the Government under the Constitution.

In fact we cannot yet obtain a straightforward factual account even on the journey of that report - into the hands of Mr. Desmond Allum, the special counsel. When, for example, was the report delivered to the President? When did the President transmit it to the Prime Minister as he is constitutionally required to do? When did the Prime Minsiter receive it Did he read it? We have heard from the Attorney General, the Minsiter responsible for legal affairs, that he himself has not read the report and is unaware of its contents.

Who then, apart from the Commission, is aware of the report's contents? We may presume, of course, that both the President and the Prime Minister are aware of its contents. But this would be only presumption. The President may not have read it, nor the Prime Minister. We have been told by the newspapers that Ministers of Government have been fingered in the report. This allegation has not been denied by any member of the Government.

We are told that Mr. Desmond Allum, barrister-at-law, has a copy of the report. What are the terms and conditions of Mr. Allum's appointment? If Mr. Allum finds that Ministers of Government and other persons in public life are implicated in a serious manner but there is insufficient evidence to convict them of crime in a court of law, what is he to do?

One would expect that in a properly functioning democratic system, the population's right to know the answers to these questions would be scrupulously respected. But the matter goes even further. Are persons now free, in an electioneering atmosphere, to make or instigate scandalous allegations against the character of citizens of this country while the true contents of the report are concealed until after the general election?

How can the Attorney General defend referral of the report to private counsel and the expenditure of public funds for the purpsoe when he does not know what the report contains? Why does the captain remain silent on matters on which he alone can speak?

What are the results of his own investigation into the City Hall affair which led to demands for the resignation of the Mayor of Port-of-Spain and two Ministers of Government? How can a Minister of Government be wounded in a shooting incident and not a word said while he continues in office as though nothing has ever happended?

I mention these matters in order to demonstrate and emphaise the need for a comprehensive review of our political system in order to entrench principles of responsibility and accountability and to promote higher standards of conduct in our public life.

Here experience has shown that it is not enough merely to promise virtue such as putting wrongs right. There must be legal and institutional changes in our system of government. These changes must start at the top where standards are set and must be effective to promote responsibility and accountablity for the conduct of public business.

prejudicial to the proper discharge of their duties, and since it appears that for political reasons Prime Ministers cannot or will not relieve them of their duties, the Integrity Commission must also have the power to review the conduct of a Minister and to make recommendations to the Prime Minister. If the Integrity Commission finds the matter sufficiently grave and the Prime Minister will not act, it should have the power to publish its findings and recommendations concerning the Minister.

Parliament

The second level that must be addressed is that of Parliament.

At present, a printed copy of parliamentary proceedings known as Hansard cannot be obtained until after five years from the date of the proceedings. The new government must move rapidly to reduce this time lag in publication to a minimum period of three months and, ideally, seven days.

The committee system in Parliament must be entrenched and committees given authority and, where appropriate, as with the Public Accounts Committee and Public Accounts State Enterprises Committee, must have the necessary research and technical staff and investigative powers.

Ombudsman

The office of the Ombudsman must be strengthened and given "teeth" so that citizens' greivances against department of state and public bodies generally can be more expeditiously dealt with. A special tribunal must also be set up to deal with bureaucratic abuses.

The Public Service

Next must be the Public Service. There must be radical changes in the outlook and organisation of the Public Service. My own experience as Minister of Finance, Minister of External Affairs and later as Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly convinces me that this is possible.

As demoralised and disoriented as the Public Service may now be, Trinidad and Tobago is still endowed with some of the best trained and some of the most dedicated public servants in the Caribbean.

The first requirement is that the hand of party politics must be lifted from the Public Service. The second requirement is that public servants must be efficiency and productivity oriented. They must be retrained to adopt a problem-solving and thoughtful approach rather than slavish adherence to antiquated systems, rules and regulations.

Part of the new Williams building can be used in conjunction with the University of the West Indies as a high-powered training centre in management techniques for the Public Service and the private sector. Williams, as Sir Phillip Sherlock reminded us, was a good historian and a good teacher. He was terrible at finance. And even his successor's figures are always wrong.

It must also be seriously considered whether one of the twin towers should not be rented to private enterprise in order to pay for the maintenance of the other.

Local Government

Another area for drastic reform is local government.

Over-centralisation of the Government in Port-of-Spain has led to remoteness from the population, insensitivity and neglect of the outlying areas.

It is pitiful to hear of the frustrations experienced by citizens all over the country regarding the simple matters that take years to be attended to or are not attended to at all.

The experience of the Tobago House of Assembly and some of the local government bodies has shown how pride in community and local energies can be utilised to achieve rapid transformation in living conditions throughout the country. A healthy spirit of competition should be introduced at the local government level to stimulate interest and participation in community improvement.

The system of national awards must be reviewed to pay adequate recognition to achievement, innovation, creativity and effort beyond the mere line of duty at all levels of the society.

I must emphasise that the proposals I have outlined must be imple-

mented by training, retraining, and redeployment of personnel as well as reorganisation of departments without any overall increase in costs. For this purpose steps will need to be taken to facilitate the retirement of those who cannot adjust to the new dynamism required in the Public Service.

I shall, Mr. President, take the liberty of referring to this matter of the Public Service again when I deal with certain aspects of our long-term reconstruction programme.

In a paper entitled "The Caribbean State and its Role in Economic Management," Dr. Trevor Farrell has argued that nearly all English-speaking countries of the Caribbean have failed in their economic management. Barbados is the sole exception.

Windfall Earnings

Between 1974 and 1978 the Jamaican economy contracted by 14.8 per cent. Guyana's performance has been dismal. From a per capita income figure only slightly below that of Barbados in 1960, by 1982 Guyana had a per capita income just about one-tenth that of Barbados. Between 1972 and 1982, Barbados, without any petroleum windfall earnings, actually narrowed the gap with Trinidad and Tobago, despite this country's phenomenal increase in income from oil.

A glance at relative inflation rates will be particularly revealing since we have been repeatedly told by official spokesmen that inflation has been externally fuelled in Trinidad and Tobago:

Says Dr. Farrell: "...three things are clear. One is that we have failed. The second is that it is our decisions at governmental level that are primarily to blame. The third is that our failure is in the final analysis our responsibility...

"To blame everything imaginable for our failures and exonerate ourselves after two decades and more of 'independence' is silly."

I could not agree more with Dr. Farrell. It is both silly and irresponsible. At the beginning of the 1970s, Jamaica's output per head of population exceeded that of Barbados by nearly ten per cent. By 1984, output per head in Barbados was already three times that of Jamaica.

When we achieved independence we were sixth in the hemisphere in output per head, exceeded by the United States, Canada, Venezuela, Puerto Rico and Argentina. By 1982, the oil windfall promoted us to No. 3 in the hemisphere only after the United States and Canada.

Five Times

We were higher than all the countries of Southern Europe: about twice that of Yugoslavia; more than 25 per cent above Italy; more than twice that of Greece; more than 60 per cent above Spain. We were almost five times that of Israel.

You, Mr. President, I understand, were incorporated into the recent pilgrimage to the Far East in search of foreign capital. Per capita output of Trinidad and Tobago was $5,248 US in 1982.

Now compare Trinidad and Tobago, its high-powered delegation travelling cap in hand to the newly industrialised countries (NICs), also called the "little dragons" of South East Asia with Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan and Malaysia.

Trinidad and Tobago in 1982 exceeded the per capita output of Hong Kong by over ten per cent showed over four times that of South Korea ($1,332), nearly four times that of Malaysia ($1,557), more than two and a half times that of Taiwan ($2,213), roughly equalled that of Singapore ($5,368), multiplied more than 20 times that of China and approached 25 times that of India.

I have already pointed out in a previous address how in every single year from 1977 Government revenues were over ten times as much as in the whole decade from 1963 to 1973. I have also previously pointed out the disaster that befell us every election year (except 1966) and particularly in election year 1981 which accounted for a revenue expenditure increase in 1982 100 per cent above 1980, or from three billion dollars to six billion dollars.

That three billion dollar increase in recurrent expenditure arising from decisions made in an election year was more damaging than any hurricane that has ravaged the Caribbean in the past 30 years. Minister Padmore has called it "sound financial management." Parliamentary Secretary, John Scott, in a rare moment of illumination, has aptly described such financial

Firstly, there continues to be a conspicuous absence of long-term planning. Export manufacture we are told is the answer. But this sector at present only accounts for three per cent of our export earnings. The Government has at last begun to recognise the potential of the tourism sector. But tourism expansion requires a planned and coordinated approach accompanied by a suitable education programme. None of the pre-requisites for long-term success in the tourism industry appears to be even understood, let alone put into place, by the tourism Minister and the tourist agencies.

It does not require a prophet of doom and gloom to see clearly

Consumer Price Inflation	1981	1982	1983	1984	
Barbados	12.6	2.5	7.1	5.6	3.0
Trinidad and Tobago	14.3	11.5	16.7	13.4	9.0
Guyana	34.7	18.5	15.0	—	—

that through the obsession of our rulers with the maintenance of power, we are on a collision course with disaster in yet another election year.

The way forward depends very much not only on where we are coming from, but also on where we find ourselves on decision day and our understanding of how we got there.

With the details, I am sure, you are already familiar: we all know that the tapering off of the oil boom, financial extravagance and the lack of success in really diversifying the economy have left us very vulnerable; so vulnerable that the subsequent shock of management as "madness."

Devastated

Are the current policies any better in another election year? The answer is a resounding no.
rapidly falling oil prices has devastated our foreign reserves and created a crisis in the fiscal operations of the central government.

Since the "boom" of the late seventies was fuelled by Government budget surpluses and access to abundant foreign reserves, the private sector has also come under the "hammer" of reduced cash and foreign exchange flows; and sales, profits, employment and new investment have been squeezed. The construction industry has been decimated.

At this point, after four years of deficit, the Treasury finds itself increasingly dependent on: (1) foreign borrowing — estimated to be 75 per cent of our total debt at the end of 1985; (ii) short-term borrowing — the amount of T. bills outstanding has more than doubled since 1982; and (iii) with what appears to be severely eroded (if not negative) cash balances. In three of the past four years the annual reduction in cash balances was about one billion dollars.

Very Tight

The impact of these events on the private sector has been: very tight liquidity in the financial system, gross reduction in sales, retrenchment in employment, idle capacity and an increasing rate of business failures.

How does all this help us determine the way forward? First, we must recognise that the Government's role as the engine of growth will be greatly reduced, notwithstanding its increased control in the petroleum industry. The private sector will no longer be able to rely on Government spending to fuel investment nor on Government transfers to sustain demand. Indeed, the private sector will find itself competing with Government for scarce financial resources.

Second, there will be no let-up in the pressure on the foreign reserves unless a miracle similar in effect to the 1973 "oil shock" occurs. This is so for three reasons:

(1) Though much has been made of a favourable balance of visible trade in 1984 and 1985, the fact is that this was due to substantial falls in the value of imports rather than to any increase in the value of our exports. In fact, it is becoming increasingly clear that the items which we produce for international markets and which, by far, are our major earners of foreign exchange, are very vulnerable.

Earnings Fell

Take, for example, the domestic fertilizer industry where, despite gross increases in volume, earnings fell substantially in the course of 1985 because of soft world prices.

Moreover, the prospect of expanding existing non-oil exports to a point where they are sufficient to compensate for falling petroleum prices is remote.

(2) The second factor contributing to a continuing shortage of foreign exchange is the recent rapid increase in the foreign debt and the nature of that debt: More than two-thirds of the total public debt of Trinidad and Tobago outstanding at the end of 1985 was owed to foreigners and due to be repaid within three to ten years. Further, the cost of servicing that debt increased by 50 per cent on devaluation day 1985.

(3) To this must be added the prospect of an on-going and increasing annual public sector borrowing requirement based on (i) a forecast of continuing decline in oil revenues (government receipts from the oil sector fell 35 per cent in four years, from 62 per cent of total current revenue in 1981 to about 39 per cent in 1985) and also (ii) on the short-term rigidity in expenditure which includes such fixed commitments as salaries, interest, and a minimum of supplies as

well as meeting loan repayment schedules.

While there may be some shift to local borrowing, there will be, if present trends continue, an increased need for Government to borrow externally. This will be an added burden to be borne by the foreign earnings and such borrowing can expand even to the point where new debt is incurred purely to satisfy the financing requirement of the old. I have already warned that Trinidad and Tobago is heading for the "debt trap."

In any event, the private sector must now gear itself to searching out and activating its own stimuli, creating its own markets, generating its own surpluses and supplementing these by new and innovative means of mobilising the savings of the community for investment in the productive sectors of the economy.

Foreign Reserves

In pursuing these goals one must be ever mindful of the precarious position of the foreign reserves and the need for caution in creating claims against this account. While joint ventures are welcome in view of the low level of domestic savings and the need for access to external (already developed) markets, care will have to be exercised that the claims established by partners are compatible with the benefits accruing from them. There will be need for a policy on technology imports and the import of services.

Moreover, bearing in mind the need to expand exports to supplement dwindling oil receipts, it is apparent that these new industries should be capable of generating a value of exports close to those previously enjoyed by the declining sector.

All of this points not to "sunset" industries but to new industries employing rather advanced technologies, riding the product cycle and geared to enter international trade in competition with all comers. The implication of such a new strategy will be as follows:

1. Possible substantial shifts in the direction of investment and a widening of the base sourcing these investments.

2. Intense training and re-training of human resources to produce a work-force capable of manning and managing such industries.

3. Re-assessing of the risk factors affecting investment decisions, and perhaps a re-examination of expectations regarding acceptable time-frames for returns on that investment.

4. A massive information and education programme (apart from the qualitative one) to influence attitudes in the community at large which are compatible with the more risky and competitive world which we must enter.

5. A cooperative search by labour and management for an alternative to the traditional adversarial relationship and for a forum in which to pursue their mutual interests in the development of the industries on which they both, and the entire community, will depend.

Some Features

I have already touched upon some of the adjustments required in our system of government. Since the economic cannot be divorced from the political, I shall outline some of the features of our programme on behalf of the National Alliance for Reconstruction.

1. Strengthening of the parliamentary system of government, establishing clear lines of responsibility and mechanisms for accountability, including codes of ethics, the integrity legislation required by the Constitution, and a programme of public education on the need for standards of conduct in public life.

2. Entrenchment of the citizen's democratic right to know in an Information Act.

3. Reorganisation, retraining and reorientation of the Public Service towards efficiency and productivity, and removal of the hand of party politics from this area of our national life.

Local Problems

4. Decentralisation of the system of government allowing people in their local communities to be more identified with the solution of their local problems and the supply of their local needs.

5. A rapid scaling down of the Government's interventionist role in the economy, including divestment of some of the state enterprises.

6. A clear and unequivocal policy of promotion of private initiative, self-reliance, self-help and creativity in all sections of the community.

7. A rapid dismantling of the crippling restrictions caused by inefficient and antiquated regulations.

8. A dramatic increase in speed in the decision-making process.

9. Revamping of the education system to meet the needs of a technologically oriented society.

10. Promotion of national unity through close collaboration with all sections of our society in the formulation of national and regional programmes and providing a climate of security for all the various ethnic strains in our multi-cultural society.

It is in this context only that we will be

able to mount a successful programme of economic recovery and reconstruction of the national economy.

Shot-term Needs

Our economic recovery plan will, of course, be addressed to short-term needs while our reconstruction plan will be directed towards the long-term. Both will proceed simultaneously.

The combined effect of the programmes in housing, agriculture and tourism designed to supply such basic needs as shelter, food and foreign exchange will be to stimulate demand for manufactures as well as to supply the needs for infrastructural development and household furniture and equipment.

The man whom the population now regards as our Housing Minister has promised us 200,000 housing units in two years. "Only give me the land," he says. All he needs is 40,000 acres and Caroni alone has that acerage in a state of idleness.

I personally would not encourage him to build so many houses in one year. As the economists would say, we have to think of the macro-effects. We have to plan the whole so as not to create too many shortages or over-heat the economy. I would be moderately satisfied with a performance of ten times as many houses as the present Government can build in one year.

Idle Land

By encouraging self-help and private initiative, and putting to use countless acres of idle land either for agriculture or for housing, employing the considerable stocks of machinery and equipment built up by the construction industry during the boom years and now lying idle, and incorporating the experience, the techniques and the commitment demonstrated in the Sou Sou Lands project, entirely new communities can be built to satisfy the housing and other needs of the population, to stimulate output in a number of fields and to provide employment and incomes.

Add to this programme an integrated plan of tourism expansion along with cultural, environmental, agricultural, sport and recreational programmes, and there is the basis for expansion with the widest possible ripple effects throughout the economy.

Job Security

Such of the state enterprises as are retained will be required to make their way in the commercial world. Efficient enterprises will be encouraged to expand. It must be appreciated that job security can only be assured by expansion in the productive sector and particularly in that part of the sector that earns foreign exchange.

The tax structure will therefore be oriented away from mere revenue-raising to give strong support to the development thrust.

Having regard to the state of government finances, the Government will no longer be able to generate surpluses for direct investment in the manner of the boom years. Strong incentives will therefore be given to private savings and investment. The tax structure must be geared to the need to generate domestic savings and private investment on a far larger and broader base than ever envisaged.

There must be allowances for employment, added local value, profits from realised foreign exchange earnings, new products including high-tech products, and sucro-tech products, and for social expenditures that add to the stock of human capital. There will be incentives to increase the application of new technology.

Personal Income

Taking inflation into account, the personal income tax allowance must be substantially increased to about $12,000 and the number of tax bands reduced.

Our major long-term thrust will be in the field of manufacturing. And here, all the nation's talent all its creativity, all its genius, its drive and energy will have to be mobilised to the fullest.

The restructuring and re-orientation and re-training of the Public Service must be directed particularly at those functions which support the economic expansion programme, and even more particularly in the area of the export drive; the department of industry and commerce; the Central Bank, customs and inland revenue, the Ministry of Finance and Planning, the immigration department, to name a few, must achieve unprecedented levels of efficiency.

Coping-stone

I have no doubt whatever, that with the appropriate reorganisation and leadership they can and will attain these levels.

The coping-stone for the new thrust will be a department of technology. The function of this department will be to collaborate with the private sector and the University of the West Indies and other institutions in monitor-

ing technological improvements in different parts of the world in areas related to the industrialisation programme in order to stimulate technological advances at all levels of the production process, from the standardisation, preservation and packaging of bene balls to the products of the highly competitive high-tech industries.

Its function must include matters such as stimulating design capabilities and materials fabrication; engineering industries, measures to capture the creative talents and skills displayed in Carnival and channeling these into industry. It must assist in converting the steel pan into an exportable product and in developing a whole range of saleable products out of the numerous manifestations of the rich variety of cultures in our society.

For many of these latter products, the tourism industry will provide a ready-made and expanding market.

Industrial Thrust

However, achievements in all these fields will be merely laying the foundations for the industrial thrust the centrepiece of which will be, not the energy-based industries as the government misguidedly believed, but rather the industries and other enterprises which produce the very basic ingredients for indigenous industrial expansion, such as metals and materials fabricating, industrial design capabilities and the engineering industries.

Creation or expansion of these enterprises will result in the necessary network of linkages to ensure a self-reinforcing manufacturing capability and a platform for industrial expansion both to supply domestic needs and for export.

The programme will be geared to produce a high level of permanent jobs and opportunities for self-improvement and career fulfilment. Hence individual involvement in continuous training and re training programmes will have to be incorporated as part of our culture.

International competition in industry will require a measure of discipline and toughness that we are yet to acquire. But has anyone ever seen Viv Richards and company preparing for a Test-match? "The Hammer" with his band up on Laventille Hill preparing for competition in the "Savanna"?

National Unity

Well, its all there in the raw. It is the task of leadership to "culture" it.

The whole programme has to be infused with a high sense of national purpose and national unity. There are some among us who for narrow selfish reasons would wish to divide this country into African, Indian, French Creole and others, generating feelings of exclusivity and hatred on ethnic grounds. I repudiate such a policy absolutely.

I believe that it is only by promoting the kind of social climate that can produce in all of us a feeling of security and a sense of belonging within the framework of the national community that we can have that degree of commitment that is so necessary in building a nation.

Our Cultures

I believe that the richness and variety of our cultures, our profoundly significant historical experience and the attractiveness of our national environment have uniquely equipped us not only to meet the challenges of a competitive world but also for a constructive role among our Caribbean neighbours and in the world community of nations.

However, we can only succeed if we truly understand that our future as a nation lies not in what others can do for us but in what we can do for ourselves.

/13104
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30,000 FORMER ONR MEMBERS NOT YET REGISTERED WITH NAR

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 5 May 86 p 3

[Text] THE NATIONAL Alliance for Reconstruction National Council meeting which took place on Saturday focused on "domestic matters," according to the party's public relations officer Ken Ablack. The NAR's membership drive, contents of the statutory declaration to be made by prospective candidates, voter registration, and discussion of the party's constitution were the main items discussed.

Some 10,000 people have now registered as members of the NAR, but there are 30,000 former members of the former Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) alone whom the NAR would like to locate.

While members of former units that went into the NAR are automatically members of the NAR, they have been asked to regularise their membership.

A clause in the statutory declaration to be made by prospective candidates concerning commitment to the party's programme and philosophy is to be redrafted. Efforts by the party to have voters lists made accurate have gone better in some constituencies than others, according to Ablack.

"Some constituency organisations have information that should be submitted to the Elections and Boundaries Commission," he explained, "and we hope this will now be done."

There were calls for a party conference to continue discussion of the party's constitution which was postponed last February. Some confusion has occurred at constituency conferences because sections of the constitution dealing with party organisation have not been clarified.

/13104
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NAR'S TEWARIE DISCUSSES POLITICAL, SOCIAL VIEWS

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 11 May 86 p 8

[Gail Alexander column "Politics: "PNM Failed the Country and We Must Move On--An Interview with the NAR General Secretary"]

[Text] In 1976 and 1981 Beau Tewarie weathered the political defeat of the parties he was involved with at those times--Tapia and the Alliance--with a sense of acknowledgement which still did not shake his belief in the need for a change of government in this country.

Now in another election year, Dr. Tewarie, 38, holds the position of general secretary of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), a vigorous new entity born of the same need for change which has so far brought the PhD scholar and UWI lecturer closer to the heart of politics then he had been before.

And while his involvment with Tapia--which he joined in 1971--and the Alliance has prepared him for manoeuvres in the political arena to an extent, this experience only serves to emphasise just what a big-league ball game his affiliation with the NAR has catapulted him to.

Scion of a staunchly Hindu family of Curepe, Dr. Tewarie is married to a secondary school teacher and is the father of two. He has been based at Cunupia for the last couple of years, living in a housing development project which a group of associates put together.

Adjusting his own feelings and ideas to the goals and philosophies of the NAR has taken time. As the party's flag is hoisted even higher, he is also discovering just how much of a price the campaign trail can exact.

It doesn't only mean unavoidably missing a class now and again. No matter how much students appear to understand, Dr. Tewarie has learnt that not everybody elses seems to.

He says:

"Some people say that I've changed that I've become too ambitious, that I want to rise too fast. If I am ambitious it is simply to influence the destiny of

my nation and people. Right now I see politic's as an extension of my career as a teacher and my commitment to education. It's another opportunity for public service really; most people of my generation share a kind of commitment to social cohesion and national development."

Public Awareness

The abrasiveness which he has been encountering along the way hasn't shaken his conviction in the strength of the NAR. The atmosphere for this party is right, he feels, and the present chemistry should produce favourable results.

He describes the basis of this particular chemistry as one part public awareness of the fact that a means of survivial must be devised and the other part as a pervasive feeling that such a solution cannot be had if the PNM is allowed to win the next general election.

In the event of the Opposition's success as the polls, one may wonder--for all the obvious reasons--what is to stop the NAR from degenerating along the same route as the PNM. The party's general secretary bases his answer on three points.

Like many in the NAR, he believes that in view of 30 years of Government by the PNM, the Opposition is unlikely to repeat the mistakes of the ruling party, especially since they are aware of how the PNM has become mired and therefore would hardly venture into such quicksand again. He adds:

"We have taken so long to come together that most of the problems which one would expect have been threshed out to a large degree. It's no secret. In bringing this party together we have had everything: extreme differences, conflicts of opinion, complicated clashes. But the NAR has first and foremost to be concerned with presenting a superior alternative to the PNM. We have to put everything aside and focus on this."

Political Culture

Dr. Tewarie says: "As a party which must do so, it is still necessary to transform the NAR's political culture into something entirely different to the ruling party's.

"We have to work harder along the principles of commitment and democracy, open dialogue and discussion, as well as a recognition of talent and ability--moreso a structure that functions as an organisation.

Reflecting a bit, he adds that the party has already gone a long way towards achieving such principles. But whether or not the NAR is successful, it will still agitate for reactivation of a sound economy hinging on development from within he says.

"This is not something which can be imported. We should be looking to our resources. For example, Government for a long while neglected agriculture, which can be developed in all sorts of ways. There are other things, of

couse, but the key idea is that only Trinidadians and Tobagonians have an interest in developing this country."

"And then again the NAR is also very concerned, as I am myself, with a Caribbean vulnerability to the outside world."

At one time, a secondary school teacher, Dr. Tewarie completed his PhD in 1983. He says he has often been accused of lacking a grassroots image probably as a result of his days with the Tapia Movement, a party which many considered overly idealistic and intellectual-oriented.

Prosperity and Progress

Nevertheless, he stoutly defends the need for intellectuals in a country which desires progress and prosperity. One cannot, he argues, have policies without coherent thought, idea and reflection.

"And in any case, this country has been noted in politics as once being led by an Oxford-educated PhD scholar," he says.

Apart from his political work, Dr. Tewarie has recently been writing a paper on local authors including Vidia Naipaul and Earl Lovelace, and another on the East Indian in Trinidad and Tobago literature. He derives a great deal of pleasure from this, so much so, he says, that when he is writing politics takes a back seat--at least a seat on the side anyway.

"You know, I don't want to be known as the type of politician who waffles on, saying everything and very little I have no quarrel with anybody in the PNM. I understand what they tried to do and I sympathise with the emotional investment of those who have supported that movement for many years.

"But the PNM has failed and as a country we must move on--it is as simple as that," he declares.

/13104
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OWTU OFFICIAL SEES TRADE UNION MOVEMENT UNDER ATTACK

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 2 May 86 p 2

[Text] **"IT IS a sad May Day, our backs are against the wall, we are being beaten mercilessly by the employers and we need not expect any compassion, not even from the Parliament. The question is what are we going to do about it."**

The words of Cecil Paul, second vice president of the Oilfields Workers Trade Union, as he addressed a May Day rally at TIWU Hall, Laventille yesterday.

There is no group of workers in the country which is not taking a beating, he said. He added: "We are not signing any new collective agreements and all the collective agreements are expiring." The institution of collective bargaining, he went on, is virtually dead. Violations of collective agreements are now the norm while at one time they were the exception.

Paul said that trade unions in the society are being emasculated and the society is "picking us off one by one." The trade union movement in the country, he explained, comprised approximately a quarter million people, but "50,000 have already been lost."

Unless something is done, he said, there will be the de-unionisation of large sectors of workers, the trade union movement will be weak and immobilised and will lose its bargaining power. Were it not for the trade union movement, he said, many democratic rights would be lost.

He said that it was the trade union movement that got the right to vote and fought against the Public Order Act. "In the absence of the trade union movement they will do anything to us."

/13104
CSO: 3298/442

END